

Jury clears OJ Simpson of murder

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Giles Whittell, page 16
Leading article, page 17



**FROM TOM RHODES
IN WASHINGTON**

TELEVISION

Only the Jockey Club in Washington, eating place for the capital's elite, refrained from making any official announcement. "Most of our customers always find out their news by cellular telephone," the manager said.

BY FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN

Legal line-up: Johnnie Cochran, left, defence team leader, Marcia Clark, and Christopher Darden, right

Worse, evidence or lines of argument would be "leaked" through the media and tested on the public before being used in the courtroom, he said.

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BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

JURY

Juror 12: Black woman, 71, married, retired cleaning officer, was an alternate.

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For almost everyone, the long melodrama and legal minuets failed to shift rooted opinions

Hero who became the measure of a divided nation

BY BEN MACINTYRE

LONG before Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman were horribly murdered, O.J. Simpson was a living icon to millions whose skin colour only enhanced his achievements: the black man made good, football hero, amiable front-man for the Hertz car hire company, millionaire, funny film star.

With his arrest and trial on charges of double murder, that already heady symbolism was instantly transformed into a far more potent and frightening quality. O.J. became a barometer for America's fissile race relations, largely irrespective of his guilt or innocence.

An opinion poll taken by CBS News as the Los Angeles jury began deliberations found 64 per cent of whites believed Simpson was probably guilty, while 11 per cent reckoned he was probably innocent. Among blacks, that

statistic was almost exactly reversed: 12 per cent felt he was probably guilty, while 59 per cent thought the opposite.

The racial gulf revealed by those numbers may be stark enough, but more extraordinary yet is the fact that they have remained virtually unchanged since the judicial process began a year ago.

In other words, America has sat through the blindest television coverage, the Simpson jokes, the excruciatingly tedious and ugly legal minutiae and the flashes of melodrama — and virtually no one has changed their mind about O.J. Simpson: he still represents one face to blacks and another to whites.

America has a unique gift — or weakness — for turning the legal process into a vehicle for societal self-examination: the Menendez brothers' trial was about child abuse and money; the William Kennedy

Smith and Mike Tyson trials were about date rape and money; the Branch Davidian trial was about government power and guns.

Initially, the Simpson trial appeared to be falling into a similar pattern — as a trial about spousal abuse (and money). But, within days of the murders, the preponderance of the racial theme became glaringly apparent.

In that, the Simpson trial has more in common with the Rodney King legal marathon of bitter memory than any of the celebrity trials.

An early sign of what was in store came when a US news magazine published Simpson's mug-shot on its front cover but artificially darkened the image, immediately prompting accusations that he was being made to appear more menacing, blacker, and, therefore, guiltier.

Simpson's defence team has used the incendiary race card egregiously, flagrantly, and with a cynical awareness of its effect outside the courtroom.

Even before a jury was assembled, the defence ploy to discredit Mark Fuhrman as a loud-mouthed racist was leaked to the media in his summation. Johnnie Cochran compared the police detective to Hitler.

For the majority of black Americans the question at issue is not whether Simpson is guilty, but whether any African-American can get a fair trial in a society riddled with racial prejudice.

Every event in the Simpson trial-comedy-farce has been seen through this distorted prism, most notably when Simpson took to the LA freeway in his white Ford Bronco (now a collector's item).

Black supporters saw a brother and fellow victim making a bid for freedom and cheered him on with cries of "Run O.J., Run". Most whites simply saw a guilty man evading justice on prime-time television.

Talk to almost any young black person from the ghetto, particularly on the streets of



O.J. Simpson with his ex-wife Nicole and their children, daughter Sidney Brooke, nine, and son Justin, six, at an LA film premiere in March 1994

LA, and they will tell you that O.J. has been framed.

It is a conviction that springs from the heart rather than the head — and in many cases from hard experience of a system that is undeniably weighted against blacks — and is the more explosive for it.

By the logic of this belief, even O.J.'s acquittal will be seen as a consequence of his money and in spite of his race,

so deep is the presumption of bias. As his lawyers have avidly stoked the fires of racial animosity, so Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman and the facts of their grisly deaths have somehow faded from the scene.

O.J. has become absorbed into the American language, part of the way American citizens variously perceive themselves and their society, a symbol of belief as immune

to rational analysis as any other idol.

Quick return: Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan cut short an Asian tour in Tokyo yesterday to return home.

"The eyes of the world are on Los Angeles. As the leader of the city, Mayor Riordan feels a responsibility to be in Los Angeles at the time of this announcement," the Mayor's office said in a brief statement. (AP)

17 months that put American justice on trial

KEY DATES

June 12, 1994: Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman stabbed to death.

June 13: Simpson arrives in Chicago. Detectives go to his estate and conduct warrantless search. Back in Los Angeles, Simpson is questioned.

June 16: Simpson accompanies his children Sydney and Justin, to Nicole's funeral. Friends and family attend Goldman funeral.

June 17: Simpson charged with murder. Failing to surrender as promised, he is spotted in white Ford Bronco with friend Al Cowlings driving. Police follow, ending at Simpson's home, where he is arrested.

July 22: Simpson pleads "absolutely, 100 per cent not guilty". Case assigned to Superior Court Judge Lance Ito.

August 22: Court papers disclose that some DNA tests show Simpson's blood has same genetic make-up as samples from blood trail leading from murder scene.

September 9: Prosecutors announce that they will seek sentence of life without parole rather than the death penalty.

January 11, 1995: The jury is sequestered.

January 20: Judge Ito allows possibility of Detective Mark Fuhrman's racism introduced if defence can prove it relevant.

January 24: Ito rejects Simpson's request to speak directly to jurors before defence opening statements but he does allow him to show scars on his knees. Prosecutors Christopher Darden and Marcia Clark begin opening statements.

February 3: Denise Brown testifies how Simpson humiliated her sister and once hurled her against a wall. March 15: Fuhrman denies using racial slur in past ten years.

April 21: Jurors wear black and refuse to hear testimony for day after three deputies who guarded panel are reassigned amid charges of giving preferential treatment to white jurors.

June 5: After juror dismissals, final jury make-up is nine blacks, one Hispanic and two whites; ten women, two men.

June 15: Simpson fails to pull on bloody gloves found at murder scene and his estate.

July 6: Prosecution rests.

August 29: Excerpts of recorded interviews between Fuhrman and screenwriter played with jury absent. August 31: Ito rules that jurors will hear only two of 61 excerpts. Lawyer Robert Tourtelot says he will no longer act as Fuhrman's spokesman or represent him in civil matters.

September 7: The defence



Goldman: died with Simpson's wife

says that Simpson will not testify.

September 18: Prosecution conditionally rests. September 21: Ito gives jurors option of finding Simpson guilty of second-degree murder.

September 22: Defence and prosecution rest. Simpson tells judge: "I did not, could not and would not have committed this crime."

September 29: Prosecution presents rebuttal arguments. Judge gives final jury instructions: case goes to jury.

October 2: Jury deliberations begin and end in less than four hours.

Acquittal averts immediate danger of nationwide riots

FROM MARTIN FURTNER IN WASHINGTON

O.J. SIMPSON'S astonishing acquittal yesterday averted the danger of riots across the United States, but did nothing to improve the country's smouldering race relations.

Most white Americans were convinced of Mr Simpson's guilt and will see the verdict as proof that black jurors — in the interests of racial solidarity — would never convict a fellow black of Mr Simpson's sins, however damning the evidence.

The verdict was the mirror image of a 1992 trial in which a mostly white jury acquitted four white Los Angeles police officers, despite a video showing them beating Rodney

King, a black motorist. That verdict enraged the city's black community, sparking the worst race riots in American history.

This case is hardly likely to prompt whites to take to the streets in fury, but at the very least it will lead to demands for drastic reforms of the criminal justice system. These would include changes to the process of jury selection and allowing juries to reach majority verdicts to prevent lone jurors from thwarting justice on purely racial grounds.

What the trial really exposed was the dangerously wide gulf that has developed between black and white Americans in their percep-

tions of the society in which they live.

To most whites the evidence against Mr Simpson was overwhelming. They considered the defence assertion that the former football star and actor had been framed by a racist Los Angeles Police Department as completely incredible.

To most blacks, including the nine black jurors, that argument seemed eminently plausible. A US News and World Report opinion poll published last weekend showed that 60 per cent of American blacks believed the police often frame innocent people, and other recent polls disclosed that at least two-thirds of blacks believed Mr Simpson was innocent.

Johnnie Cochran, Mr Simpson's black lawyer, played the race card for all it was worth. He knew the King case still rankled the black community in Los Angeles. He was extraordinarily lucky when the virulent racism of Mark Fuhrman, the detective who had gathered evidence at Mr Simpson's home, was so dramatically exposed during the trial. Mr Cochran concluded his case with a powerful demand that the jury acquit Mr Simpson to rein in America's rampaging racist police forces.

The trial also took place at a time when black Americans are feeling increasingly threatened by the white establishment. The Republican-dominated Congress has declared war on affirmative action programmes that were designed to redress America's long history of racial discrimination.

The Republicans are drastically curbing health and welfare programmes that benefit blacks disproportionately, and the Democratic Party, which traditionally has fought the black corner, is in a state of collapse. A number of bestselling books by conservative academics, notably Charles Murray's *The Bell Curve*, have popularised the idea that white Americans are not responsible for the black predicament. Yesterday's verdict may have averted riots, but it suggests the potential for a future racial conflagration is great.



Vidal on Vidal

GINNY DOUGARY TALKS TO GORE VIDAL ABOUT HIS MEMOIR

IN THE

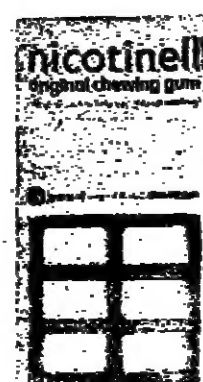
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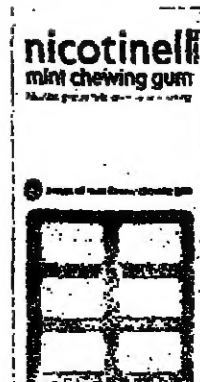
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Judge's warning in historic courtroom as woman goes on trial accused of 10 murders

No place for sentiment, West jurors are told

By BILL FROST
AND RICHARD DUCE

JURORS were told yesterday that they must banish "all preconceptions, prejudice and sentiment" from their minds as evidence unfolds in the case of Rosemary West.

Mr Justice Mantell told them: "Enter upon your very heavy responsibility in a clear-cut way, unaffected by anything you may have read about this case, which certainly has its sensational aspects." Jurors must ensure that they did not talk even to members of their family about the case, he said. "You are perfectly at liberty to say you are serving on the jury which is trying Rosemary West on ten charges of murder. Beyond that, say nothing."

The swearing in of eight men and four women jurors began the formal proceedings at the historic Winchester Crown Court, adjacent to the Great Hall where Sir Walter Raleigh was found guilty of treason in 1603.

Besppected Mrs West, 41, had been brought in a prison van from the nearby Winchester jail an hour before she entered the dock. She is being held in a basement cell of the prison's C wing. Behind the tinted glass of the van, she had appeared to bow her head between her knees.

In the oak-panelled number three courtroom, she watched intently as the jurors were selected by ballot from a potential list of 30. Beside her were two young women prison officers, with a male officer positioned in the far corner of the dock.

Each potential juror was asked to indicate whether they knew the defendant, or any witnesses or police, so they would not be called to serve. It took only minutes for the eight men and four women to be called to the jury box. Eleven members formally took the oath while one man gave an affirmation.

Then Mrs West, a mother of seven, stood impassively, her hands clasped in front of her, as the ten murder counts were read out by Angela Merride, the court clerk. On each side of her, the women prison officers, one blonde and one dark-haired, stood with their hands clasped behind their backs, their white open-necked blouses contrasting sharply with their dark blue uniforms.

Throughout the formal reading, Mrs West sometimes looked towards the jury, but mostly looking ahead.

The glass-fronted public gallery was full of members of the public and journalists, craning their necks to watch the events below. The dock and Mrs West were out of sight immediately below them.

At end of the formal reading, the clerk told the jurors: "To this indictment she has pleaded not guilty and it is



The view from the dock: an artist's impression of the scene inside Winchester's Court Number Three yesterday at the start of the Rosemary West trial. Illustration: Sián Frances.

THE JUDGE

Mr Justice Mantell, 58, is a former grammar school boy with a passion for cricket. He is the presiding judge on the Western Circuit. Sir Charles Mantell was educated at Manchester Grammar School and read law at the city's university. Called to the bar in 1960, he became a Crown Court recorder in 1978 and took silk in 1979. A judge of the Supreme Court in Hong Kong for three years, he was knighted in 1990.

THE CHARGES

Rosemary West is charged with ten murders. She is accused of killing Charmaine West, aged eight, between May and December 31, 1971. Charmaine was the daughter of Frederick West's first wife, Catherine Costello. The girl's remains were found at the Wests' former home at 25 Midland Road, Gloucester. Lydia Gough, aged 19, Miss Gough was born in Glossop, Derbyshire, and vanished in April 1973. Carol Ann Cooper, aged 15, she was in the care of Worcester County Council but disappeared on November 10, 1973 after going out with friends. Lucy Partington, aged 21, Miss Partington was a third-year English student at Exeter University who disappeared on December 27, 1973. Therese Siegenthaler, aged 21, Swiss-born Therese was studying sociology at a London college and disappeared in 1974. Shirley Hubbard, aged 15, she lived with foster-parents and disappeared in November 1974. Juanita Mott, 18, she was born in Gloucester and was

last seen in April 1975. Shirley Anne Robinson, aged 18, she was last seen in Gloucester in May 1978. Her remains were found buried in the garden of 25 Cromwell Street, Alison Chambers, aged 19, she lived at a children's home in Gloucester, but disappeared in August 1979. Heather West, aged 16, the first child of Fred and Rosemary West, she was the first person whose body to be uncovered at 25 Cromwell Street. She disappeared in June, 1987, after her GCSE exams.

PROSECUTION

Brian Leveson, QC, 46, has been involved in some high-profile cases including the prosecution of Ken Dodd, the comedian, on charges of income tax evasion. Mr Leveson, who took silk in 1986, led the team of lawyers who presented the case against George Graham, the former Arsenal football manager, over allegations that he received secret cash payments during transfer deals. He is normally based in Manchester.

DEFENCE

Rosemary West's defence will be led by Richard Ferguson, QC, a skilled cross-examiner and a former Ulster Unionist MP. Mr Ferguson, 60, successfully defended the boxer Terry Marsh when he was charged with attempted murder, helped to overturn the judgment in the case of the Birmingham Six and pleaded for Ernest Saunders in the marathon Guinness trial. He is chairman of the Criminal Bar Association.

your charge to say, having heard all the evidence, whether she is guilty or not of all or any of these charges."

The judge said that "some very substantial questions of law" had to be decided in the case at the outset, and it was neither necessary nor desirable that they should be present while this was being done.

Mrs West remained in the dock. She did not utter a single word during the formal proceedings, but she appeared to follow them intently.

Mrs West's husband Frederick, 53, a builder, was found hanging in his remand cell at Winson Green prison, Birmingham, on New Year's Day. A full inquest has yet to be held into his death.

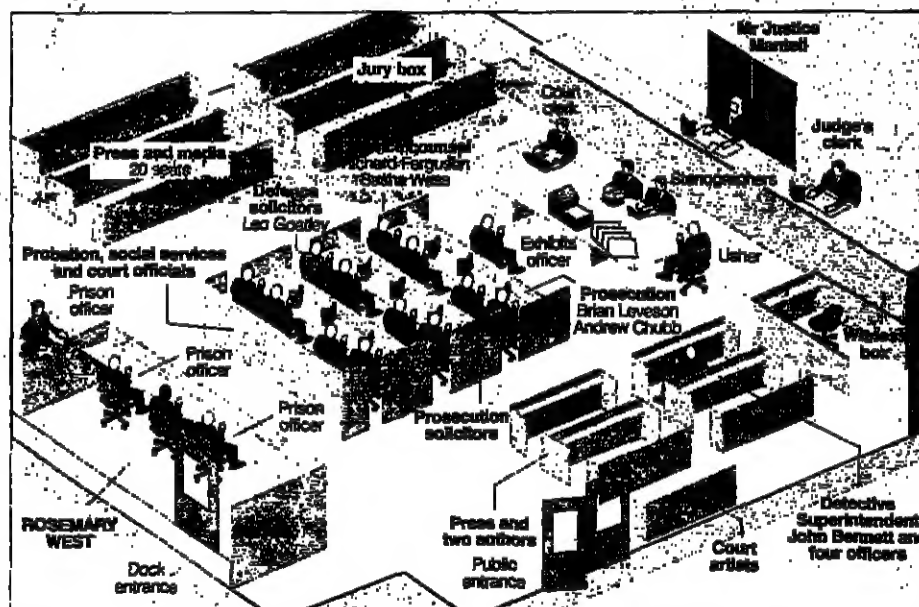
Frederick West had been charged with the same alleged murders as his wife. He alone

was also further charged with having murdered his first wife, Catherine, 25, and Anne McFall, 18, a Scottish baby-minder.

Last night, Mrs West was back in her remand prison cell after nearly six hours at Winchester Crown Court. Office workers left their desks to join a crowd of about 100 who watched in silence as a curtained-off prison van took her from the court to the city's jail. Two police outsiders escorted the van and roads were closed.

The trial is expected to last up to eight weeks but the court will not sit today, as Jewish lawyers will be observing Yom Kippur. Additionally, the Winchester judges will carry out ceremonies to mark the start of the legal year.

Judge's call, page 1



Judge's call, page 1

BBC limits reporters to two days in court and offers counselling

By RICHARD DUCE

STRESS counselling is being offered to BBC correspondents in Winchester who have been told to spend no more than two days at a stretch on the press bench during the trial, expected to last up to eight weeks. The evidence is believed to be so harrowing that longer may be damaging.

Counselling was offered to BBC journalists who covered the committal proceedings at Dursley, Gloucestershire, in February. Corporation management were said to be concerned that their reporters might suffer post-traumatic stress disorder after listening to the evidence.

Every national media org-

anisation is represented at the trial, with reporters and camera crews from Australia, France, Germany and Spain. UPI, the news agency serving America, is also there but its reporter admitted his market was obsessed with another trial yesterday as the O.J. Simpson jury delivered its verdict in Los Angeles.

The French confessed to being fascinated with the West case. A television producer said: "In our country Ruth Rendell mysteries are a big seller. This case has all the elements of a classic thriller."

Thirty seats have been allocated inside court number

three for the media, and all were full yesterday. An annex with audio links has been set up in two first-floor courtrooms for reporters who have not been given seats.

The BBC has hired empty office space above Moss Bros, close to the court, to relay reports and pictures back to London. Outside the court building, police have lined the pavement with crash barriers for when Mrs West enters and leaves. An additional 15 police officers have been put on court duty to maintain order outside if needed.

Winchester prison has denied claims by other inmates

that Mrs West is enjoying preferential treatment and that she has had her cell converted into a luxurious apartment complete with carpets, colour television and other electrical appliances.

The claim was made in a letter to a local evening newspaper, but Alan Stobart, the deputy governor, said: "This is absolute nonsense. She will have a bed, a table, chair and a locker and her room certainly isn't carpeted. There is a shower in the area but she doesn't have a tumble dryer or washing machine. Rosemary West will be treated the same as any other Category A prisoner."

Media, page 23

Immediate help forestalls trouble



Dr Thomas Stuttard

Western Front. When in his 80s he had recurrent nightmares. I asked if he was dreaming of the war. He assured me that he was not - his recurrent bad dreams were of falling his exams.

The effect of stress varies: it is not unreasonable for the BBC to fear that in some cases it might be allegations of a mother murdering her children. Post traumatic stress disorder is characterised by patients reliving the event in the imagination during the day, or in dreams by night. It

has other influences on the emotional life but the percentage who will suffer is much disputed, as is the mental state before the incident occurred.

There is no doubt people's tolerance to death and disaster varies enormously, but the length of time for which somebody is exposed to a stressful situation is important, as is the care they receive afterwards.

As well as reliving the experience, the patients can also become irritable, emo-

nationally detached, have mood swings from absurd jollity to maudlin tearful misery, restlessness, sleeplessness and even violence. Marriages may break down and some may resort to alcohol or drugs.

Barry Lutton, principal counsellor at the Charter Nightingale Hospital in London, says that counselling not only alleviates the symptoms but may prevent future trouble by allowing people to vent their feelings in total confidence.

The essence of any treatment, in Mr Lutton's view, is to offer counselling as soon as that tensions do not have time to build up to the point at which they cause symptoms later and become unmanageable. The trick, Mr Lutton believes, is to persuade the patient minutely to describe the situation and their emotions.

Boy found in pool is allowed to die

A severely brain-damaged boy, known only as Michael, died yesterday after Jersey's Royal Court allowed his medical treatment to be halted. The decision was made after the five-year-old boy's parents appealed for Michael, who was found at the bottom of a private swimming pool last month, to be allowed to die with dignity.

Giving judgment, Deputy Bailiff Francis Hamon said the ruling would allow the boy "to die more speedily than he might have done had we not taken the decision we did". Lawyers said that the Jersey case broke new ground, although it was a logical step forward from earlier rulings. Under present laws in Britain, treatment may be withdrawn only from a patient in a persistent vegetative state.

Benefit payback

Motorists and businesses face increased insurance premiums under plans put forward by Peter Lilley intended to save £100 million in welfare costs. The Social Security Secretary is preparing to force insurance companies to bear the full cost of reimbursing the state for benefits paid to victims of accidents and industrial disease. Companies said the proposals' costs would have to be passed on to customers in higher premiums.

Offer to students

The president of the American College in London offered places last night to students who claim they were misled into thinking that they were going to Oxford University. Joseph Houghton made the offer through The Times as trading standards officers began investigating Warborough College, Oxford. He said he was embarrassed by the college's American connection and would place as many students as possible.

Targets missed

Hospitals have failed to hit government targets on first outpatient appointments. Under new national standards, nine in ten patients referred to a specialist should be seen within 13 weeks. Data published by the Department of Health show that only 85 per cent were seen in that time, and even fewer in certain specialties. Patients referred to a plastic surgeon had to wait longest, with only 74 per cent seen in the target period.

Livestock picket

Animal welfare protesters wearing black armbands mounted a picket at the home of a livestock exporter in Framlingham, Suffolk, yesterday after the death of one of their members who collapsed at a public meeting with police.

Derek Day, 65, died on Monday during a meeting with John Burrow, Chief Constable of Essex, to discuss police tactics at the port of Brightlingsea in Essex.

Sperm danger

Men could be putting their children at risk of cancer by smoking, even before their partners become pregnant. A study at Birmingham University, using data gathered from the late 1970s, has shown that the more men smoke, the greater the chance that their children will suffer from cancer. No similar link was found for women smoking. The findings suggest that the damage is done to the father's sperm before conception.

Chessmen move



The historic Lewis Chessmen, one of which is pictured above, are to be returned to the British Museum in spite of calls from the Western Isles for the medieval pieces to stay on Lewis, where they were found 164 years ago, and where they have been on display. Western Isles Council has written to the British Museum calling for a permanent loan of the chessmen to the island. The museum says it will consider the request.

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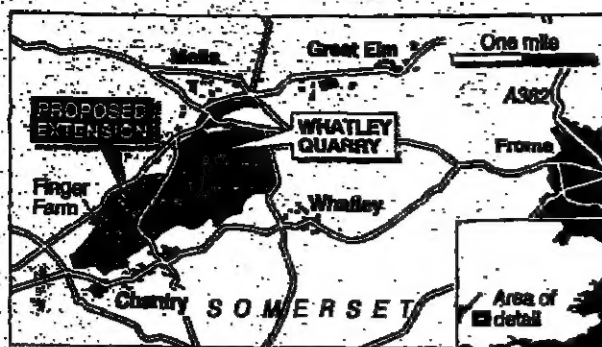
Villagers reject £500,000 offer to end quarry fight

BY MICHAEL HORNBY

TWO villages in Somerset have rejected offers of about £250,000 each to withdraw their opposition to a quarry extension that would obliterate an ancient country lane.

In a battle seen as a conservation test case, the villagers are backed by Bath, seven miles to the north, which fears the proposed limestone diggings could reduce the flow and temperature of hot springs that feed the city's Roman baths and Pump Room. The hedge-lined lane, which runs for about a mile between Chantry and Mells to the west of the market town of Frome, would disappear under plans by ARC, a subsidiary of the Hanson group, to extend the existing 250-acre Whitley Quarry in the Mendip Hills.

Lady Violet Powell, who has lived in Chantry with her husband, the novelist Anthony Powell, for more than 40 years, is at the forefront of the campaign by local residents to block the development. Last



Friday night she was among 100 villagers who met in Chantry's early Victorian church and overwhelmingly rejected an offer by ARC to make a down-payment of £25,000 and further annual payments of £10,000, indexed for the next 20 years for the loss of the lane.

"Many people called the offer a 'bribe' and 'hush money', and frankly, it is difficult to see it as anything else," Lady Violet, who is a sister of the Earl of Longford, said. "Chantry has no village hall, pub, shop or post office of

its own, and the lane linking us to Mells is a lifeline."

David Rawlins, a retired doctor who chairs the Whitley Parish Council, which includes Chantry, said: "There are no more than 220 voters on our electoral roll, so a turn-out of 100 was remarkable. Not a single person spoke in favour of accepting the money, even though it could have come in quite useful for church repairs and such like."

On Monday night 80 residents of the parish of Mells, which has 520 people on its electoral roll, rejected an identical offer, though the decision was less clear-cut with 29 voting against, 15 for and the rest abstaining.

Bryan Asford, chairman of the Mells council, said: "There were strong feelings on both sides. Opinion is more divided here because we are less dependent on the lane than Chantry and we are further away from the quarry."

Somerset County Council's environment committee is expected to approve ARC's planning application today despite the disquiet. The decision would have to be endorsed by John Gummer, the Environment Secretary. Any formal objection by either village would make a public inquiry mandatory.

ARC says the expansion of the quarry would enable it to raise rock output from five million tonnes a year to eight million by 2001, mainly for road-building. It would also extend the life of the quarry, which supports some 400 jobs directly or indirectly, for another 20 years.



Clemente Cavicoli leaving the inquest yesterday. He said he had not seen the cyclist on the path

Coroner urges parks to limit skaters' routes

BY LEYLA LINTON

A CORONER called for separate paths for skaters in parks and speed limits on cyclists after an inquest yesterday into the death of a cyclist in Hyde Park. Mark Welch, 26, died two days after suffering head injuries in the collision with Clemente Cavicoli, who had been wearing in-line roller skates.

Dr Paul Knapman, the Westminster Coroner, is to urge the chief executive of the Royal Parks Agency to draw up a strategy to reconcile the conflicting interests of skaters, cyclists and pedestrians.

Mr Cavicoli, 32, told the inquest at Horseferry Road court, London, that he had just finished adjusting his boot and had been skating for only a few seconds when the accident happened. He thought that he had been on the pedestrian side of the path, and had not seen the cyclist.

Mr Cavicoli, a furniture agent, said he was spun round by the impact and thrown to the ground, injuring his arm. Mr Welch, a television researcher, was flown by helicopter to hospital where he died without regaining consciousness.

Recording a verdict of accidental death, Dr Knapman expressed concern that several months after the accident a policy on skating had still to be drawn up by the Royal Parks Agency. He told Viviane Robertson, head of policy at the agency: "I have the impression that you have meetings and meetings and then try to be nice to everybody."

Dr Knapman said: "Roller-bladers are trendsetters. I have referred to them as beautiful people who want to see and be seen. They have as much right to be accommodated as the nanny pushing her pram."

A royal parks spokesman said: "We will agree our policy urgently as the coroner recommends and implement it as soon as practicable."

A "no skating" sign went up in Regent's Park yesterday after complaints about high-speed skaters. St James's Park has had "no skating" signs for several weeks.

Woman accused of poisoning her daughters

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY

A WOMAN murdered one of her daughters and severely harmed two others during eight years of abuse which social services and the police failed to prevent, a court was told yesterday. Celia Beckett, 34, was having games of "play dead" with her youngest child when two others were already sharing a grave, Nottingham Crown Court was told.

Mrs Beckett denies murdering and poisoning her daughter, Tracey, four, causing grievous bodily harm to Clare, who died in 1991 at the age of seven, and poisoning, and cruelty to her third daughter, Debbie, now six, who has been adopted. Mrs Beckett, who is described as almost backward, was overheard by neighbours shouting at Debbie: "I wish you were where your sisters are," said Nigel Rumbutt, QC, for the prosecution.

Mr Rumbutt said it was a tragic history made sadder by the failures of the social services, welfare system and police inquiries. Mrs Beckett's first child was offered for adoption soon after birth. Tracey was born in July 1982 and, 21 months later, was taken to hospital with facial injuries caused by a blow from

her mother. The child was put on the at-risk register "which is supposed to give her extra protection," Mr Rumbutt said.

Two months later, Mrs Beckett gave birth to Clare. When Clare was five months old she was taken to hospital where doctors were baffled by her devastating brain injuries.

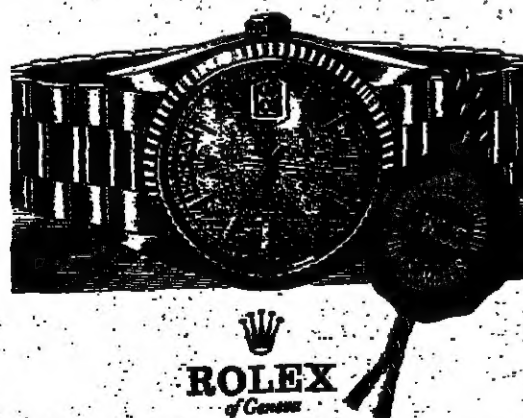
Overnight she became blind, epileptic, mentally handicapped and afflicted with cerebral palsy. Clare never recovered and died in 1991 in foster care.

In September 1986, when Tracey was four, she was taken to hospital and her mother said she had taken 23 anti-depressants, enough to kill her. Later that month neighbours heard screaming from the house in Newark and found Tracey dead on a bed. Her death was attributed to acute bronchitis.

Debbie was born in February 1989. When she was two she was taken to hospital after an overdose of tablets, which she survived.

Debbie has now been given a new home and a different name. In January 1994 her sisters' bodies were exhumed and traces of drugs were found in Tracey's body. The trial continues.

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Where science never sleeps

Patriotic call to rebuild society 'broken by Tory rule'

Blair promises rebirth of a united, caring and prosperous nation

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

TONY BLAIR yesterday set out his vision of how a Labour government would transform an "old and tired" Britain into an affluent, secure and united nation. In a speech lasting just over an hour, the Labour leader appealed to delegates at the party conference in Brighton to help create a Labour government that would last for a generation.

The party had spent too long in Opposition, he said. "I have spent 10 years being angry, passionate and indignant about young people huddled in doorways, families made wretched by unemployment, the poor unable to make ends meet. I am fed up with anger. They don't need our anger, they need action. And they will not get it through the rage of Opposition but through a Labour Party that has had the courage to take hard choices, get into government and do something for them."

Mr Blair said his socialism was about a set of values for society and a moral purpose to life. "I know that for some of you New Labour has been painful. There is no greater pain to be endured in politics than the birth of a new idea. Socialism to me was never about nationalisation or the power of the State. It is a moral purpose to life, a set of values, a belief in society, in co-operation."

"It is how I try to live my life; the simple truths. I am worth no more than any other man, I am my brother's keeper. I will not walk by on the other side. We are simply people set in isolation from each other, face to face with eternity, but members of the same family, community, the same human race."

"This is my socialism. The irony of our long years in Opposition is that these values are shared by the vast majority of the British people."

Mr Blair said, however, that in the past Labour's politics and ideology had not reflected those values in a way that

LEADER'S SPEECH

brought them alive for the people. "We called them 'our people' while forgetting who they were."

He said that New Labour had begun with the help of the party's former leaders, Neil Kinnock and John Smith. "We have transformed our party. But I didn't come into politics to change the Labour Party. I came into politics to change the country. I honestly believe that if we had not changed, if we had not returned our party to its values, freed from the weight of outdated ideology, we could not change the country."

"We could not win and, even

had made. "There is a record of incompetence and dishonesty on an epic scale. Now they plead with the British people: trust us this one more time. I say this to the British people: there are two sides to a deal. They gave their word and you gave your vote. They broke their word and they don't ever deserve your vote again."

"Wasn't it good to see Eric Cantona back in action? Let's hope this time he remembers that kicking people in the teeth is the job of the Tory Government."

Mr Blair told the conference that the Conservatives would cut taxes before an election and raise them afterwards. "It's all a con. We all want ordinary hard-working families to pay less tax. But the

but its weight hangs heavy upon us. Why? Because for far too long it has left us defining ourselves as a nation not by what unites us but by what divides us: a class system unequal and antiquated, a social fabric tattered and torn, a politics where dogma drives out common sense."

If the country did not change course it would have two classes of health service, two classes of state schools and two Britains — one on welfare, another paying for it. "I want us to be a young country again," he said, "young with a common purpose, with ideals we cherish and live up to, not resting on past glories, not fighting old battles... where people succeed on the basis of what they give to their country rather than what they take from their country."

The new country would build a new economy for the future. "No more bosses versus workers, but partnership at work. No more public versus private finance. Co-operation to rebuild our nation's roads, rail, inner cities and regions. No more boom and bust economics."

Mr Blair said education was the best economic policy and that the future lay in the marriage of education and technology. "The arms race may be over; the knowledge race has begun. We will never compete on the basis of a low-wage, sweatshop economy. We have just one asset: our people, their intelligence and their potential. Develop it, we succeed. Neglect it, we fail. It is as simple as that."

Labour's challenge to build a young country was not just economic but social and moral. "Look at the wreckage of our broken society. See Britain through the eyes of our children. Are we really proud of society today? Drugs, violence, youngsters hanging around street corners with nothing to do. We have to have the courage to build a new civil



Tony Blair and his wife Cherie basking in the applause of delegates, who gave the party leader a six-minute ovation

‘I do not want a one-term Labour government that dazzles for a moment then ends in disillusion’

if we did, we would not have governed in the way Britain needs. For I do not want a one-term Labour government that dazzles for a moment then ends in disillusion. I want a Labour government that governs for a generation and changes Britain for the good."

Mr Blair called for the party to sweep away what he called the most discredited and dishonourable government in living memory. He attacked Tory MPs on the "chicken run" to find safe seats and accepted John Major's challenge to a television debate ahead of the next election. "Any place, any time," he said. "But I have a better idea. Instead of challenging us to a television debate, challenge us to a general election."

He said the Tories had broken every promise they

way to cut tax is to cut unemployment, cut crime, cut welfare spending, all the reasons taxes have gone up."

He said that if the Tories were re-elected there would be more VAT on fuel, more opt-out schools, more post offices sold off and more health privatisation. "Don't let them capture Britain's future, for they offer it nothing. This is a new age to be led by a new generation."

His generation had more freedom than any other but less certainty about how to exercise it responsibly. He described it as "the generation that knocks on the door of a new millennium, frightened for our future and unsure of our soul."

The people were living in a new age but in an old country. "We are proud of our history

society, a new social order, where everyone has a stake and everyone plays a part. Justice for all, responsibility from all."

Unemployment would not be solved overnight, the Labour leader said. "But no decent society can tolerate these levels of long-term unemployment with all the misery and social breakdown it brings."

Mr Blair said that in any young country, the talents of all were allowed to flourish. "There should be no discrimination on grounds of disability, gender, age, sexuality or race. In its place, tolerance and respect. And I say to the Tories: those who play politics with race or immigration betray the decent values of any civilised society."

He made a firm pledge to carry out in government the programme he provided in Labour's election manifesto. "Nothing more, nothing less. That is my word. We deliver what we promise. We don't promise what we can't deliver. Is that not a vision worth fighting for?"

Delegates were urged to "feel new Britain come alive, feel the vitality that can course through this country's veins and make it young again. Rise, together, to the challenge."

But New Labour could not create new Britain alone, he said. "I challenge this country: let us rouse ourselves to a new moral purpose for our nation,

to build a new and young country that can lay aside the prejudices that have dominated our land for generations. A nation for all the people, built by all the people. Old divisions cast out. A new spirit in the nation. Working together. Unity. Solidarity. Partnership. One Britain."

"That is the patriotism for the future, where never again do we fight our politics by appealing to one section of our

election is not a struggle for political power, it is a battle for the soul of our nation."

The first Labour Party to win power, and the Labour of 1945 and 1964, had been "New Labour" because they had the "courage to take the values of the Labour Party and use them not for the world as it was, but for the world as they wanted it to be."

When he walked with Tony ministers down The Mall in

Blair said: "It's no good waving the fabric of our flag when you have spent 16 years tearing apart the fabric of our nation. They had 'torn apart' communities and people's security, he said."

The people who had shouted to Mr Blair in The Mall were "decent people, good people, patriotic people. When I hear people urging us to fight for 'our people', I tell you: these are our people. They are the majority. And we must serve them, and build that new Britain, that young country, for their children and their families."

Mr Blair promised that he would do all he could to get the Tories out. "I will devote every breath that I breathe, every sinew of my body, to ensuring that your grandchildren do get to live in that new Britain in a new and better world. Discipline. Courage. Determination. Honesty. The victory can be won."

"The prize is immense. It is new Britain, one Britain, the people united by shared values and shared aims. A Government governing for all the people. The party founded by the people, back, truly, as the people's party. New Labour. New Britain. The party renewed. The country reborn."

Delegates rewarded Mr Blair with a six-minute standing ovation.

Simon Jenkins, page 16
Leading article, page 17

‘The coming election is not a struggle for political power, it's a battle for the soul of our nation’

nation at the expense of another, where your child in distress is my child, your parent ill and in pain is my parent, your friend unemployed or helpless, my friend, and your neighbour my neighbour. That is the true patriotism of a nation, so that together we do make this the young country of my generation's dreams."

The Tories would say that it could not be done. "They will lie about you. They will lie about me. They will lie about themselves. But do not let fear drive out hope. Be strong and of good courage. The coming

London during the VI-Day commemorations, many of the thousands of people lining the route and waving Union Flags were Labour supporters, urging him: "Get the Tories out!" Mr Blair said: "These are our people. They love this country, just as we do. It is because they love this country that they look to us to change it. So let us say with pride: we are patriots. This is the patriotic party, because it is the people's party."

To Tory supporters who would be waving the Union Flag at their party conference in Blackpool next week, Mr

Time traveller Tony rekindles the white heat of technology

Before Tony Blair's speech, a chap near me growled: "E thinks 'e's the dog's bollocks. Well he's entitled to. It was a commanding speech: a real dog's bollocks of an oration."

Echoing John F. Kennedy, Newt Gingrich and Jesus Christ, and interrupted by 13 minutes (in total) of mid-speech applause, the Labour leader came as close as a politician can to offering a glimpse of the Promised Land. We can identify six key elements to this: new Britain, New Labour, new technology, New Testament, new audience — and old Tony.

Before this week new Britain was a sun-drenched dependency in the Pacific. But as Blair himself said, picturing the future: "Virtual reality tourism allows you anywhere in the world." Thrilling to his picture of a classless, crime-free, brotherly, sisterly nation, delegates filed out into a grey sky and spitting wind. It spelt a Britain where we half-thought (though he never quite promised) there would be no more rain.

What, then, is new Labour?

MATTHEW PARR
POLITICAL SKETCH

Tony Blair has discovered what other Socialists have missed. That a Tory speech goes down well in Britain. He therefore gave one. There were even cries — non-ironic — of "hyah, hyah" during his passage on law and order. But the British enjoy a frisson of modernism too. So with Mary Wilson sitting proudly behind him, Blair treated us to a 1990s rerun of Harold Wilson's 60s dream about the technological revolution. Few understood much of this but we knew it was terrifically important — probably for the young.

But there was something for older voters too. Blair offered the New Testament. Within moments he was quoting Christ. Near the end he declared (twice): "Be strong and of good courage." The tone was positively messianic. Mr Blair has yet to declare: "As God said and rightly..." but he will. "Disciplined Cour-

age! Determination! Honesty!" Caught on a cusp somewhere between Florence Nightingale and Che Guevara, Mr Blair's peroration approached the phrasing they embroidered on to school caps. We loved it.

Commentators will say he is winning his audience round, but I think he is winning a new audience. There are missing faces this year and many unfamiliar ones. Politicians used to think that if the audience didn't like the message, you changed the message. Mr Blair has changed the audience.

So was it new Britain? Or the old Britain that Labour never noticed? New Labour? Or old Harold repolished? New Testament? Or old-time religion? Perhaps Professor Hawking is right: Blair has fused the funnels between black holes and is taking us time travelling. Old Tony

stays as fresh as each succeeding dawn.

On Tuesday this sketch suggested that like Dorian Gray, Tony Blair keeps a likeness somewhere, absorbing his sins and ageing for him. A friend has sent the quote from Wilde:

"Now wherever you go you charm the world. Will it always be so? ... You have a wonderfully beautiful face. Mr Gray, don't frown. You have. And Beauty is a form of genius — is higher, indeed, than Genius — because it needs no explanation. It cannot be questioned. It has its divine right of sovereignty. It makes princes of those who have it. You smile? Ah! When you have lost you won't smile."

Yesterday Tony Blair made a beautiful speech and made it beautifully. It will not stand question but does not need to. As Wilde says: "Beauty is the wonder of wonders. It is only shallow people who do not judge by appearances."

Yesterday Dorian Blair was the dog's bollocks.

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Cuts in class sizes pledged

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No one can still claim that this is a party short on policy

Tony Blair's first words yesterday were, appropriately, a tribute to Mary Wilson, who was sitting on the platform behind him. His subsequent speech had many echoes of Harold Wilson's "white heat of the technological revolution" conference address of 1963. As such, it inspired his party, and may go down well with the country. After last year's home truths, delegates had something to cheer about; even though, in retrospect, the Kennedyesque rhetoric about youth and patriotism may seem emptier than it sounded in the hall.

Mr Blair had several objectives: to show that his party is broadly

united and with him; that he has a vision of the future of Britain; that Labour has detailed policies; and that there is a real difference between the main parties. He succeeded, aided by the isolation of the far-Left so far in the conference. Yesterday was an important stage in the development of the Blair strategy — moving from the "new Labour" phase of internal party changes to the "new Britain" phase of explaining policy.

The former is vital since retaining the support of the party will be crucial to the success of Labour in office. Mr Blair is now able to get away with statements which would previously have provoked loud

Blair sets out his stall in conference speech

Cuts in class sizes pledged

By Nicholas Wood
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SMALLER classes, children using the latest laptop computers and tough new measures to boost standards were promised yesterday by Tony Blair as he committed a future Labour government to forging a "Knowledge Britain" in the 21st century.

"The arms race may be

over. The knowledge race has begun," the Labour leader declared. "Education is the best economic policy there is for a modern society. And it is in the marriage of education and technology that the future lies."

Mr Blair guaranteed that in infant schools every child would be taught in a class of fewer than 30 pupils. The measure should help more than a million children in England alone.

The pledge would require an extra 2,300 teachers and, after phasing in, would cost around £60 million a year. Labour would meet the bill by phasing out assisted places.

He also announced that David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, would be opening talks with education authorities and computer firms on ensuring that every child has access to a laptop computer. The intention was that the private sector would supply the hardware and the state would put extra money into teacher training.

Labour would be "the champions of standards in the 21st century". Every school would get "fair and equal funding" and there would be "no return to selection, academic or social".

Teachers and parents would get more support, but more would be expected of them. Bad teachers would be sacked and bad schools closed. Applicants for headships would have to prove their leadership skills. Nursery places would be provided for all three and four-year-olds and children would be tested on starting school at five.

Labour's BT deal aims to put Britain on superhighway

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

HOSPITALS, schools, colleges and libraries throughout the country will be connected free by BT to the information superhighway, Tony Blair announced yesterday.

The deal between Labour and BT is a milestone in Labour's drive to appeal to business and industry. The deal is likely to provoke controversy. It was approved by the BT board, of which Lord Tebbit, the former Conservative Party chairman, is a member.

In his speech at Brighton, Mr Blair said that after discussions BT had agreed that as it builds up its communications network of higher-grade cabling — the so-called "broadband" network — it would connect to it every single school, college, hospital, and library in Britain at no charge. Such public institu-

TECHNOLOGY

tions, however, will still pay for using the new network.

Mr Blair said: "They [BT] get the chance to win new markets. But the nation gets the chance to succeed. That is new Labour — public and private, working together, building a dynamic economy."

BT envisages that hospitals will use networks to transfer large amounts of information, including even diagnoses from a distance. Schools are expected to be lower users, but will be able to access teaching aids to help pupils of differing ability. Colleges and libraries will use the free network links to go online with large numbers of databases worldwide.

Though the central BT network in large cities and between cities is already mainly

fibre cable, BT estimates it could cost as much as £15 billion to wire up all domestic, business and other users beyond that core.

BT is unwilling to undertake such a large investment without being sure of a market share that will give a sufficient return. The company claims that the Government's decision earlier this year not to allow it to develop a broadband network — which could carry broadcast services such as television and radio as well as telephone — before the year 2002 is a restriction on it. The Government wants to encourage cable companies to develop broadband services.

After the Government's decision, Labour leaders approached BT in the summer and began talks on a new regulatory framework, to be brought in under a Labour government, which would lift the broadband restrictions.

Mr Blair said: "We should aim for free and fair competition and end the restrictions that have prevented BT, Mercury and others from playing their full part in wiring up Britain." He said eventually Labour wanted every home in Britain to be wired to the new communication networks.

Sir Iain Vallance, BT's chairman, who will travel to the conference in Brighton tomorrow for talks with Mr Blair, said last night: "We strongly believe we can make a tremendous contribution to improving the delivery of public services and in particular health and education in the United Kingdom."

Tony Young, joint general secretary of the CWU communications union and one of Mr Blair's key union supporters, said the move placed the information superhighway at the centre of the political agenda: "BT's commitment to connect every school, hospital and library for free is great news indeed. This is the kind of partnership Tony Blair wants to see. Britain can once again be at the forefront of the technological revolution."

substance on the welfare state, apart from its proposals for a guaranteed minimum standard of living for pensioners. Otherwise, there are just references to the "need for reform" and "hard choices". But, as senior Shadow Cabinet members recognise, the welfare state will really be the key test of the party's fresh thinking and will determine a Labour government's ability to achieve a sustainable balance between spending and taxes.

In other places, Mr Blair relied on creative accounting. It is all very well to promise to hold down class sizes for five to seven-year-olds to less than 30 and

finance this by phasing out the assisted places scheme. But that is essentially a catchy one-off gimmick. It does not explain where the resources are to be found for other education aspirations on providing nursery places, guaranteeing literacy etc.

Similarly, it is nonsense to say you would spend the estimated £600 million cost of a nationwide identity card scheme on 3,000 extra police. This money does not exist in any public expenditure plans since there has been no government commitment to compulsory ID cards. The repeated pledge to a phased release of local authority capital receipts may be justified in

its own terms to boost housing construction and renovation, but it will automatically increase public spending and borrowing.

What matters more, as with Gordon Brown's speech on Monday, is the general impression that a Labour government has policies to make a difference to Britain. Mr Blair also repeatedly talked about "a new and young country", in implied contrast to the tired old Tories. Time for a change is Labour's most powerful appeal. It is linked with the theme of trust. Mr Blair skirted around an explicit reference to a contract, like Newt Gingrich's "Contract with America", or a guarantee, as the Liberal

Democrats have offered. His own version was to promise, in relation to the Labour manifesto, "nothing more, nothing less, that is my word. We deliver what we promise. We don't promise what we can't deliver." No matter that no government can ever deliver everything it has promised because of unexpected events. It is a persuasive image. Mr Blair may have given the Tories many loose ends to exploit. But his success yesterday has also increased the challenge to John Major to set out more of his own policy thinking in Blackpool next week.

Currency union 'depends on jobs growth'

By Nicholas Wood

UNEMPLOYMENT would have to drop sharply throughout the European Union before Labour signed up to a single currency, Robin Cook declared yesterday.

The Shadow Foreign Secretary was given a rapturous reception for his strongly pro-European rhetoric in which he derided the Tories' obsession with the past and portrayed Labour as the agent of constructive change in the EU, prepared to co-operate with fellow countries.

But Mr Cook also stiffened Labour's conditions for embarking on economic and monetary union, making it highly unlikely that a Labour government could meet the 1999 Maastricht deadline. "Labour's condition for a single currency is convergence of economic performance in the real world in growth, output and jobs," Mr Cook said. "Jobs will be the bottom line in our judgment on whether to recommend to the British people that they join up to a single currency."

Echoing Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, Mr Cook delighted the conference by underlining his commitment to full employment and said that Labour wanted such a pledge written into the Maastricht Treaty when it was revised next year.

In a debate highlighting Labour's conversion to the European ideal, a succession of speakers insisted that the country's future lay with the EU while demanding action to help Europe's 17.5 million jobless, reform of the common agricultural policy and greater openness and democracy.

Austin Mitchell, MP for Great Grimsby, was heard almost in silence as he struck the only Euro-sceptic note in the debate, warning his party that a currency union was the path to economic ruin and the destruction of its hopes of getting people back to work. Labour's policy on Europe was escapism because it ignored the reality of the Maastricht Treaty and its proposals for a community "for bankers to rule in".

But the conference gave Mr Cook a standing ovation after he claimed that the Conservatives were paralysed by their divisions over Europe and that only Labour had a clear agenda for change. He said that when Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, set out his personal credo on foreign affairs, he quoted seven people — all of them dead. "Labour wants Britain to be part of the Europe of the future, not the Europe of the past."

Mr Cook received his biggest cheer when he promised that a Labour government would give "the people of Britain the same rights at work as people throughout Europe" by signing the social chapter.



Liz Davies after the acrimonious debate on her rejection as a Labour candidate

Delegates support NEC on rejection of Davies

By Jill Sherman
AND JAMES LANDALE

CLARE SHORT was jeered and heckled by the Left yesterday as she defended the decision to bar Liz Davies as a parliamentary candidate. But delegates voted convincingly to back the National Executive Committee's refusal to endorse Ms Davies as a candidate for Leeds North East.

Ms Davies, a left-wing Islington councillor, left the conference hall close to tears after a brief, acrimonious debate where her supporters condemned the "isoler-

ance" to the Left shown by the Labour leadership. She said later: "Never before has a candidate been denied endorsement merely because of her political views."

Ms Short, a member of the NEC and once regarded as a champion of the Left, was booed and slow-clapped as she declared that left-wing extremism within the party could endanger its chances of victory at the next election. She made it clear that Ms Davies had been rejected for her politics.

"We need candidates who respect party democracy and help to carry through and

explain difficult decisions," she said. "On the basis of her views and record, it is impossible for the NEC to endorse Liz Davies."

The Labour Left suffered another blow yesterday when Arthur Scargill, president of the National Union of Mineworkers, failed to win support for his attempt to save Clause Four commitment to nationalisation. He later said that he was considering leaving the party. "Maybe it is the end of the affair in the sense that the party today voted to break any link with socialist commitment," he said.

£600m to strengthen police

PROPOSALS for an extra 3,000 police on the beat were put forward yesterday by Tony Blair as part of a renewed effort to tackle crime (Nicholas Wood writes).

One possible source of the £600 million cost would be cancellation of plans being studied by ministers for compulsory identity cards. Mr Blair said that law and order was a Labour issue, not least because the poor and the vulnerable suffered most from crime. He promised a nation-

CRIME

wide crime prevention programme in which councils would be under a legal duty to consult the police, residents, schools and firms about how to tackle local problems.

Mr Blair listed his measures: "Reform of the criminal justice system; a comprehensive programme to deal with juvenile offending; action to tackle drug abuse; proper treatment of victims and wit-

nesses; tougher penalties on violence or guns; a crackdown on those who make life hell in their local neighbourhoods through noise or disturbance. But the truth is that the best two crime prevention policies are a job and a stable family."

Labour intends to educate children on the dangers of drugs. It also plans to promote access to rehabilitation and detoxification facilities, try to get guns off the streets and crack down on drug dealers and smugglers.

Back-to-work help for lone parents

By Jill Sherman
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

PROPOSALS to get a million lone parents off benefit and into work, plus sweeping changes to state pensions, were announced by Tony Blair yesterday. He made clear that a Labour government would provide a range of incentives to cut the £85 billion social security bill by getting more people into jobs.

The party intends to adapt a scheme for lone parents oper-

BENEFITS

ating in Australia. Under the Jobs, Education and Training (JET) programme, single mothers are given free child care and advice on education and training services.

Under Labour's plan, lone parents would be encouraged to work with the employment service to develop a Career Development Plan, taking into account skills, child care needs and interests, to help

obtain jobs. Labour would also change benefit rules which now discourage lone parents from earning more than £15 a week.

Single parents would no longer be "the butt of Tory propaganda," Mr Blair said.

He also proposed radical reforms of the state pension system to take into account private and occupational provision. Labour would take 1.5 million pensioners out of means tested benefit by giving them a minimum guaranteed

pension. "Universal pensions... must remain the foundation of pension provision. But we can't cure pensioner poverty simply through the state pension," he said.

The Labour leader also announced that Labour would set up regional centres of medical excellence, which would, over time, be connected via the information superhighway to cottage hospitals and GPs' surgeries so that diagnosis by experts could be backed up by local care.

Chicago X 7

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Seven daily nonstops from the U.K. to Chicago.

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Something special in the air.

Another world's fastest chip H-P claims its PA-8000 will outperform others

It's a title that seems to shift on a monthly basis, but Hewlett-Packard Co. announced a chip design Monday that it says deserves the title of the world's fastest microprocessor.

Shortages hit 486 suppliers

A worldwide shortage of 486 chips is starting to make life difficult for system vendors as Intel shifts semiconductor production in favor of Pentium chips.

H-P lifts curtain on 64-bit chip, keeps mum on Intel project

Determined not to lose mind share in the processor game, Hewlett-Packard Co. last week provided a glimpse of its 64-bit PA-RISC 8000 architecture, which is still a year from delivery.

At the same time, officials at HP and Intel Corp. all but denied a wire service news report that said the results of the two companies' collaborative microprocessor development would be announced in 1997.

Barrett, who

IN TUNE WITH

In showing it

that the 64-bit

UltraSPARC

betting that 64-

"By the end of

Larry Inman, HP

don't see the value

IBM, Motorola show off PowerPC 620 prototype; volume shipment expected in '95

IBM and Motorola are announcing the PowerPC 620 this week, the most advanced implementation of the PowerPC architecture to date.

As part of the announcement, the two companies introduced the first 620 prototype, with sample shipments to follow in the second quarter of 1995.

Volume production

second half

instruction set computing. H-P's workstations

have been controlling 72.7 per-

cent of systems analyst

analyst

may

not

be

demanded for

IBM has spent the past few years try-

ing to answer questions about the

pace in a client/server world. In

will start to find out whether

it got it right.

Over-oriented rewrite of the

ing system is supposed to be

mark, following a

IBM

plans to announce its next

generation architecture microprocessor

in March.

Expected to achieve a scaling

of 1.5x and greater than 550

performance numbers are

the processor's new products

with the product line.

chipmaker's 64-bit

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IBM accelerates revamp of OS/400; PowerPC version due later this year

As IBM ships the last of its promised OS/400 Release 3.1 components this week, it is paving the way for delivery of a completely redesigned, PowerPC-based OS/400.

Their respective server platforms. The stakes are high. IBM claimed an installed base of 300,000 AS/400s at the end of 1994, with sales growing by 50,000 units per application from 3,000 last year.

IBM big iron revamps bode well for 95; Client/server OS, 64-bit architecture await AS/400

IBM has spent the past few years trying to answer questions about the pace in a client/server world. In will start to find out whether it got it right.

eagerly awaiting the coming makeover

IBM reiterates PowerPC commitment

IBM is expected to ship its long-awaited PowerPC desktop systems in June, but with a beta version of OS/400 for PowerPC.

Lee Kinsley, general manager of the Personal Software

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IBM, Motorola To Announce 64-bit PowerPC

64-bit PowerPC, which IBM and Motorola will announce this week, promises dramatic improvements in multiprocessing over the 601, chips, sources

to come—twice 604's cost. The other, apart from

Sun announces untested 64-bit chip

comparing the chip's performance to Digital's Alpha AXP 21164, which has a SPECint92 rating of 330.

HE Sun's biggest risk is shipping a PA-7150 processor that has a SPECint92 rating of 135 and new month will introduce the PA-7200, which is expected to have a SPECint92 rating of about 130.

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Advertising watchdog says lottery's drain on fundraising is driving pressure groups to mislead

Needy charities accused of resorting to sensationalism

BY ALEXANDRA FRANK
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

COMPETITION from the National Lottery was blamed yesterday for "overzealous" and misleading advertising by charities that are struggling to attract donations.

The Advertising Standards Authority said that some charities, which had complained about a decline in income since the launch of the lottery, had felt the need "to develop creative and eye-catching advertisements in order to survive". A few, however, had overstepped the line between "presenting a distressing but accurate picture of their cause and misleading people".

The authority singled out the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth and the International Fund for Animal Welfare for "exaggerating and stretching the truth".

Greenpeace was condemned for claiming in a newspaper advertisement that

DEMON POSSESSION?

Constant headaches, depression, insomnia, fears, bad luck, strange diseases, hearing of voices, suicidal thoughts, nervousness, panic attacks, victim of witchcraft, broken relationships, nightmares, etc

THERE ARE JUST A FEW SYMPTOMS CAUSED BY DEMONS

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Universal Church of the Kingdom of God - Christian Ministry - No fees charged

This advertisement for exorcism was banned because of fears that it could exploit "vulnerable people"

"the same chemicals we dump into our seas are causing willies to shrink in size". The advert, in *The Guardian*, was headlined "You're not half the man your father was", and reproduced part of a fresco showing a man's abdomen.

Greenpeace provided the authority with research that said chemicals were suspected to be the main cause of an increase in testicular cancer and urethral abnormalities, and of a reduction in sperm counts, but the ASA ruled that there was no conclusive link. It

rejected other complaints, however, about the "gratuitous" display of nudity.

The authority upheld several complaints from the public and the timber industry about a cinema advertisement for Friends of the Earth. It showed a toilet with a mahogany seat overflowing with blood, and the voice-over said: "It costs a lot to have a toilet seat made from the Earth's last mahogany trees. Mahogany furniture costs blood."

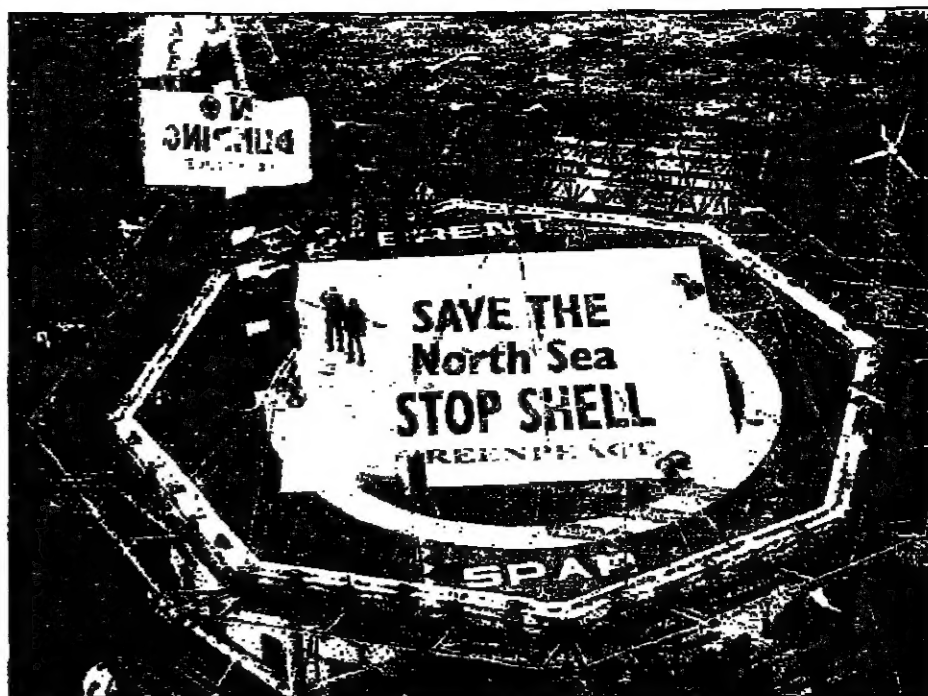
The authority banned the advertisement because several

of the factual claims, including that the harvesting of mahogany trees had led to the widespread murder of Brazilian Indians, could not be substantiated.

Charles Secret, executive director of Friends of the Earth, said the authority had been given voluminous evidence to support the advertisement. "We can back up our facts... we will continue to object to this ruling until the ASA admit they are wrong."

The authority upheld complaints, including one from the British Field Sports Society, about four national press advertisements for the International Fund for Animal Welfare which appeared to compare those who did not support the Wild Mammals (Protection) Bill to the serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer. The irrelevance of the comparison and the heinous nature of Dahmer's crimes made the advertisements shocking and offensive, the authority ruled.

Also banned was an NSPCC cinema advertisement showing



A Greenpeace campaign helped to stop the dumping of the Brent Spar oil platform but a claim about chemicals damaging male health was rejected

ing an unborn baby in the womb reacting to a violent argument between its parents. It ended with the words: "How many thousands of children grow up to wish they had never been born?" The authority said that the NSPCC could not prove that a fetus could be emotionally disturbed by hostility around it, and the

distress that the advert could cause, particularly to pregnant women, was unjustified. The authority said that sensationalism could be counterproductive: "It can do damage to the image of the charity and to the advertising industry if claims and statistics used cannot stand up to scrutiny."

A magazine advertisement

for exorcism was also banned. The Universal Church of the Kingdom of God said headaches, depression, insomnia and the break-up of relationships could be symptoms of demons and claimed its pastors could cure "possession". The ASA said that the advertisement could exploit "vulnerable people".

THE RULINGS

■ Claim. Greenpeace said: "It's true. Scientists have shown that the same chemicals that we dump into our seas are causing willies to shrink in size." Fact. Scientists are linking thousands of man-made chemicals with a range of sexual abnormalities and diseases including penis size. But researchers have yet to prove this.

■ Claim. Friends of the Earth implied that there was widespread slaughter of native Indians by loggers harvesting Brazilian mahogany for Britain. Fact. The wood is endangered and that it only comes from Brazil. Fact. Murder is not widespread, the wood is not officially listed as endangered and it comes from numerous sources.

■ Claim. The International Fund for Animal Welfare claimed hunts destroy 5,000 surplus foxhounds annually using the slogan: "You know they kill foxes. Guess what they do to foxhounds?" Fact. The figure is speculative and the fund could not prove it to the ASA.

Censure widens Greenpeace credibility gap

BY NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE Advertising Standards Authority's ruling marks a further dent in Greenpeace's credibility as a scientifically sound organisation after its admission that estimates on the amount of oil in the Brent Spar were flawed.

There is certainly growing alarm among researchers that thousands of man-made chemicals, from detergents to transformer fluids, are behind the sharp drop in sperm counts and an increase in cases of sex organ diseases.

The implication that scientists have proved that man-made chemicals are causing impotence in men may seem mild enough. Unfortunately, the discredited advertisement follows a growing tally of scientifically dubious claims made by Greenpeace in the name of saving the planet.

In 1994 its knuckles were rapped by the ASA over an advertisement showing a child with a swollen head. The group linked the distressing image with Soviet nuclear tests. The truth is that water on the brain, the condition the child had, cannot be caused by exposure to radiation.

Other notable cases in which Greenpeace's science, used to support dire warnings, has proved flawed include the *Braer* oil tanker disaster off the Shetlands. Greenpeace said that the pollution would

cause widespread damage to the marine environment. It did not.

The fine line over which Greenpeace keeps straying was brought into sharp focus during the battle with Shell over Brent Spar. The company, the Government and a series of oceanographers had always insisted that deep-sea disposal was the safest option and that the quantity of pollutants on board were negligible. But the Greenpeace "science", based on a hasty dipping of the Spar's tanks, was believed by the public, which rejected the official version. The campaign prompted the oil company's eleventh-hour decision to abandon deep-sea disposal.

Greenpeace argues that the world does not have time to wait for mainstream scientists. By the time researchers have fully proved (or disproved) the link between chemicals and damage to sexual organs, it may be too late.

Greenpeace is also keen to portray itself as the David fighting the Goliath of vested industry and politicians in a dirty war. Greenpeace is no longer a David: it is a Goliath in its own right, able to force one of the world's biggest oil companies into a humiliating U-turn.

Groups such as Greenpeace play a key role in bringing vital issues to the fore and adding to public debate. However, for the environmentalists to turn to science to support their aims is only laudable if they subject themselves to the same scientific strictures used by independent research institutes.

Unless the group keeps within the bounds of scientific fact, it runs the risk of devastating its cause and exposing itself to the kind of public cynicism reserved for politicians and corporations.

The media, generally friendly to its stunts, is also feeling manipulated and may choose to ignore Greenpeace's battles.

Friends of the Earth, also in the ASA dock yesterday, should take note. It has just appointed Uta Bellion, formerly of Greenpeace, as campaigns director. This traditionally milder and more modest group copies the publicity machine of its bigger cousin at its peril.



The advertisement that went too far

Nuclear protesters invade press briefing

BY A STAFF REPORTER

POLICE were called in yesterday when environmental activists invaded a news conference to protest at a consignment of weapons-grade nuclear fuel being shipped to Britain for reprocessing.

More than 30 protesters — including members of Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth, Scotland and Calthness against Nuclear Dumping — burst into the Caledonian Hotel in Inverness as officials from the Dounreay nuclear reprocessing plant were announcing a £17.5 million decommissioning package.

Environmental pressure groups have been campaigning against the shipment of 52 spent nuclear fuel rods which

arrived at Dounreay, Highland, from Germany on Monday night. Activists say the shipment clears the way for thousands of American weapons-grade fuel rods to be sent to Dounreay for reprocessing. A small band of protesters met the two lorries carrying the German shipment when the vessel transporting them across the North Sea docked at Scrabster harbour.

Police maintained a high profile as the lorries drove to Dounreay and one demonstrator was arrested. Dounreay officials said the spent fuel would be reprocessed early next year but they rejected Greenpeace claims that the operation posed a serious risk to the environment.

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Pledge to save Aviemore's serenity

Property tycoon buys Scottish resort for £7.5m

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

ONE of Britain's most colourful entrepreneurs has bought the Cairngorms ski resort of Aviemore for £7.5 million. Desmond Bloom, 49, who was once bodyguard to Screaming Lord Sutch, and who tried to make his name as a pop star, is planning a multimillion-pound redevelopment of the Highland holiday village.

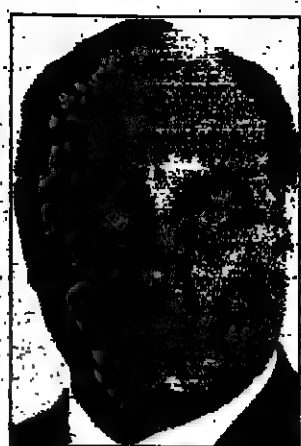
Mr Bloom, who is chairman of Premier Land, played guitar in the 1960s with the bands The Heartbeats and The Druids. He has bought the ski resort from De Veer Investments. Yesterday he said: "I fell in love with the place the moment I saw it. I realised its enormous potential and wanted it for my company. I am extremely proud to have secured the sale."

"Aviemore is in a beautiful location and its remoteness is part of its magical appeal. I am confident that we can develop this to attract visitors from throughout the world."

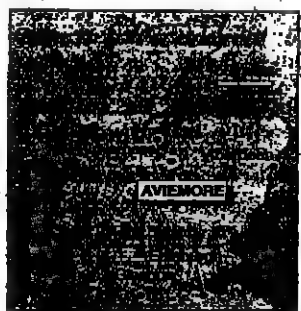
Mr Bloom, a multimillionaire, is planning to build a swimming pool and fitness centre, 71 new holiday chalets, a high-tech museum of Scottish history and to convert the existing 700-seat cinema to a two-screen complex. Much of the £16 million development will be funded by grant aid, he said.

The acquisition covers more than 100 acres and includes four hotels, a conference centre and theatre, children's theme park and an ice rink. The resort was built in the 1960s by the House of Fraser group. The late Lord Fraser wanted to turn it into the St Moritz of the Highlands and Aviemore quickly became an internationally popular year-round resort for skiers.

But in recent years there has been little investment and locals say Aviemore has become run down. They are sceptical about Mr Bloom's plans and say they have heard similar ideas from previous owners.



Bloom: he fell in love with Highland resort



Mr Bloom is the latest in a line of colourful landlords who have been seduced by the beauty and remoteness of the Highlands. He was born in Whitechapel and brought up in Ilford, east London. When he left school at 15 with no qualifications, his report said: "This boy will never go anywhere."

When he failed to find stardom with rock bands, he became a driver and minder for Screaming Lord Sutch, who had formed a band. He then went into property development. In 1984 he invested in a small Irish textile company called Dwyer to take his interests public. Dwyer's shares rocketed but later slumped and Mr Bloom, who had a Bentley and a salary in excess of £250,000, stepped down as chairman before taking over Premier Land.

The acquisition of Aviemore increases the value of Premier Land's property portfolio to about £100 million. It is the company's first diversification into leisure activities. Discussions have already taken place with the Highland Regional Council, the Scottish Tourist Board and the Scottish Office over development funds.

If successful in securing grant assistance, Premier Land hopes to market the resort as a venue for sporting events and an ideal location for filming.

Business and community leaders expressed doubts about the plans yesterday. Ian Malcolm, chairman of Aviemore Community Council, said: "Like most people in Aviemore, I'll believe it when I see it. We've seen too many big plans fall through."

Ian Turner, of Aviemore Chamber of Commerce, said: "We have been listening to this kind of thing for over ten years and we have not seen anything happen yet."

But Nicol Manson, chairman of the Highland Tourist Board, said: "It is widely recognised that the resort needs upgrading and a project of this magnitude needs funding from local authorities and other bodies. Premier Land has a very good case, and I wish them well."

Mr Bloom said: "If anyone can make a go of Aviemore, I can. I'm not some high-handed landlord coming up from the South of England. We have quite a bit of property already in Scotland and I am not going to do anything which would destroy the beauty of the Cairngorms."



John Mortimer with Sir Michael's daughter Joanna. The writer said: "Something wonderful has gone."

Stars fish for memories of Hordern

FRIENDS of Sir Michael Hordern gave him their highest tribute yesterday: he would rather have been out fishing than hearing what they were all saying about him.

Stars arrived in force for a memorial service at the actors' church, St Paul's in Covent Garden, central London. Although his career spanned a range from *King Lear* to the voice of Paddington Bear, most of the speeches recalled his passion for angling.

John Mortimer, author of *Rumpole of the Bailey*, said: "You would far rather be up to your waders in some trout stream."

Sir Michael died earlier this year in hospital in Oxford. Yesterday's service — held on what would have been his 84th birthday — was arranged by his long-time woman friend, Patricia England, and his daughter by his late wife Eve, Joanna Curzon. Miss



Patricia England yesterday and right, her long-time friend Sir Michael: "The life that I have is yours"

England was close to tears as she read one of their favourite poems, *Code Poem for French Resistance*, which begins: "The life that I have is all that I have, and the life that I have is yours."

Michael Williams, Dame Judi Dench, Timothy West, Tom Stoppard and Richard Briers all gave readings, mostly about fish. The congregation was reminded of Sir Michael's excitement, recorded in his diary of Wednesday, June 12, 1935, the day he

caught his first salmon on the River Dart.

During the Second World War, he saw distinguished service with the Royal Navy. In his acting career he was proud of having no formal training, as he told young hopefuls who wrote asking for help. He once said: "Some are born to act, some are not. I regret not learning fencing, which may affect one's *Hamlet*, but that's about it."

John Mortimer, who wrote his first play, *Dock Brief*, 40 years ago, with Hordern as the lead, said: "Something great and wonderful has gone from our world."

Frank Middlemass recalled them playing in so many versions of *King Lear*. Hordern had remarked that they were turning into a double act like the Crazy Gang team Nervo and Knox. Asked which one he would be, Hordern replied: "Nervo, it's better billing."

Two escaped, having been kicked, punched, threatened with a knife and robbed. Then the gang ambushed Mr Doran, described by his family as a quiet, gentle man. He was stabbed repeatedly in the groin, and his face and head were stamped on. Two policemen found him and he was taken to hospital, where he was found to have severe brain damage and died shortly afterwards. Every bone in his skull was broken.

The three youths, their clothes still drenched in blood, gatecrashed a party near by and boasted about what they had done. Codona was arrested next day. Gordon Jackson, QC, defending, said she had been pressured for hours by two policemen into admitting that she had kicked Mr Doran "once on the foot". She had consistently denied doing anything else.

Girl, 14, gets life for gay murder

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH

A GIRL of 14 was jailed for life yesterday for the brutal murder of a homosexual man. She was part of a gang that had attacked two other gay men on the same evening. Two teenage boys and a 20-year-old man were also sentenced to life for the murder.

Claire Codona, a pupil at Shawlands Academy in Glasgow, had denied the murder of Michael Doran, 35, from Govanhill, Glasgow. When she was found guilty at the High Court in Glasgow, Lord Morrison, the trial judge, said it was in the public interest that she be named.

As she was led away, Codona's mother screamed from the public gallery: "No, no. She never did it."

Codona's co-accused, her boyfriend John Cairns, 18, who had also pleaded not guilty, and Richard Bell, 20, and Richard Ferguson, 16, who changed their pleas to guilty midway through the trial, were all sentenced to life.

The murder happened on June 2 in Queen's Park, Glasgow. Colin Boyd, QC, for the prosecution, said the gang had homed in "like predatory animals" on three men.

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Focus of the Cold War becomes a hive of enterprise in recapturing historic role as capital

Berlin digs deep to reconstruct a sense of purpose

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BERLIN

BERLIN, five years after unification, is in a state of upheaval. There is the perpetual thud of pneumatic drills as workers rebuild the no man's land between East and West. Soon there will be no more fashionable office site than on the former Death Strip.

The Oberbaum bridge is taking the changes very calmly. For five decades, the city of bridges became a city of sudden cul-de-sacs. Bridges across the River Spree and the canals were blocked with concrete, or became border crossings like Glienicke, the scene of East-West exchanges between spies and dissidents.

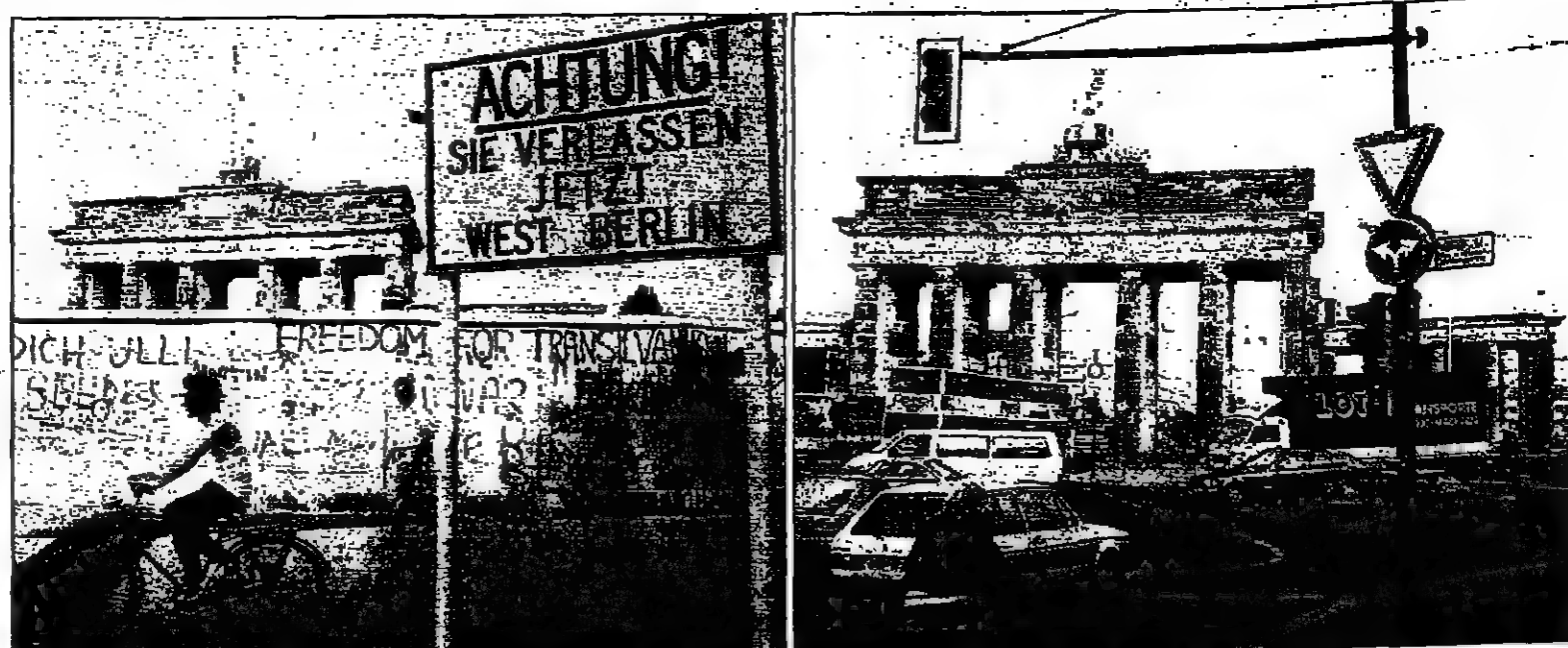
During the Cold War, the main East-West traffic over Oberbaum bridge was pensioners, free to visit relatives and return. Klara Mandelbaum, a walnut-faced 83-year-



old, was one of them, and she can barely grasp that the bridge is nothing nowadays but an ordinary river crossing. Since last November, the Oberbaum, suitably restored, has again been opened for normal traffic. There is now a physical link between the western district of Kreuzberg

and the eastern Friedrichshagen. The psychological upheaval in these two districts is becoming evident. Kreuzberg was on the eastern periphery of the divided city, surrounded on three sides by the Berlin Wall. The middle class had no wish to live there. Tenement buildings were allowed to crumble and were bought up cheaply by speculators who rented out to the poor; to Turkish and Kurdish families, to punks and to students. You went to Kreuzberg for the jazz clubs or the Turkish restaurants, but there was always the feeling that you were on the cusp of the Western world.

The wall is down, the bridge is working and suddenly traffic is streaming through the district which is no longer on the margins. Ten years ago,



With the fall of communism and the graffiti-covered Berlin Wall dividing the city, the Brandenburg Gate is bustling with traffic

the traffic lights did not function or did not exist; Anatolian teenagers in clapped-out second-hand cars would race down the broad empty streets.

Now schoolchildren are being knocked down by lorries crisscrossing Berlin as they take the quickest route from Eastern Europe into the city centre. There are other changes too: neon-lit nightclubs glitter until dawn and

gentrified restaurants employ doormen to park the Porsches.

Old photographs show the Oberbaum and the Glienicke bridges to have been lively places. The Oberbaum was built in 1896 for an international exhibition at Treptow Park upstream. An electric railway took Berliners across the river. Ships from the nearby eastern harbour chugged under the bridge,

while trams and horse-drawn taxis ran over it.

Today, Berlin is trying to recreate this sense of movement and industry. On the eastern side of the bridge, in Friedrichshagen, this is already apparent. The Cold War crippled the district — houses had to be pulled down to clear the line of fire for border guards. Now there are offices, warehouses, a few bars; every-

where a sense of movement.

Berlin is discovering new economic possibilities that are actually not new at all, but rather rooted in the almost forgotten pre-war era. Memories merge in a way specific only to Berlin. The other day, three of us — an engineer, a local amateur historian and myself — walked along the waterfront near the Oberbaum. The engineer came to a

set of steps and pointed out a makeshift cross. "A young defector was shot there in 1989, the year the wall came down," he said. The historian knew more. "Those were the steps that people used to board the imperial yacht."

Somewhat, Berlin has to hang on to and transcend these memories as it rediscovers the corners of the once and future German capital.

Youths on rampage

Düsseldorf: Political, administrative and religious figures, including Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, marked the fifth anniversary of German unification with a solemn ceremony in this northwestern city yesterday amid a heavy police presence to keep rowdy young troublemakers at bay.

The ceremonies began with an ecumenical religious service and continued with speeches that acknowledged the still-unfinished state of the

country's unification, as some 3,000 police stood by on alert. In the early hours of the national holiday, youths smashed the windows of a department store and a bank and threw paving stones at police who arrived on the scene, but no injuries were reported.

In the formal ceremony, key speakers addressed the problem of achieving social unity between east and west Germans. (AFP)

Norway fights for its role in defence

FROM MICHAEL BRYSON IN OSLO

NORWAY is seeking an alliance with Britain to stop Brussels taking over the Western European Union, a situation that would leave the founding Nato member out in the cold, when European Union members take common defence decisions.

Bjorn Gode, Norway's Foreign Minister, flies to London for talks tomorrow with Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, and will urge him to speak forcefully at the coming Inter-Governmental Conference against EU absorption of the WEU.

Norway, which voted against EU membership in a referendum last year, fears this new move could exclude it from a broader European dialogue with America. "We could be faced with the strange situation where we have to ask Washington what is going on in the European pillar of Nato," Mr Gode said in an interview yesterday.

Norway shared the worries of non-EU Nato members — Iceland and Turkey — that any attempt to turn the WEU into the EU's defence arm would weaken it as the European pillar of Nato. The only alternative, as proposed by the Dutch, was to let Norway take part in EU council meetings on defence. After the hotly contested referendum, such a move would be extremely divisive in Norway.

Norway is also a vigorous supporter of British attempts to prevent any federalist initiative at next year's IGC. Mr Gode, admitting he wanted a different referendum outcome, said Norway must realise it would have less influence in the EU than Denmark, Sweden and Finland.

It has, nevertheless, moved swiftly in the past year to ensure it is not isolated. It has set up its own IGC committee to monitor EU preparations; increased co-operation with Nordic neighbours to solicit early warning of EU proposals; taken measures, to be presented in the budget presented to the Storting (parliament), to meet the criteria for Economic and Monetary Union; and demanded early on that Brussels agree to the minimum consultation laid down by its membership of the European Economic Area.

Economically, Norway, with its huge oil resources, suffers almost no setback from its "no" vote. But it needs a new role and has found one as the Nordic bridge between America, the EU and Russia, replacing Finland — underlined by Mr Gode's talks today with Andrei Kozyrev, the Russian Foreign Minister.

Falklands oilfields on offer

London: More than 44,000 square miles of potentially oil-rich seabed in the territorial waters round the Falkland Islands went on offer to international oil companies yesterday (Michael Dwyer writes).

With the British Geological Survey predicting similarities to the North Sea, Falkland Islanders are anticipating huge finds. About 60 oil conglomerates have expressed interest.

After last month's joint declaration between Britain and Argentina, discoveries of oil or gas will have no implications for Falkland Islands sovereignty.

Paris: France called for dialogue with South Pacific nations after the region's 16-nation forum suspended ties with Paris over the resumption of nuclear testing in French Polynesia. Jacques Rummelhardt, a Foreign Ministry spokesman, said that France was waiting for more information on the South Pacific Forum move, saying: "We want dialogue with all the countries in the region."

Leading article, page 17

French plea for Pacific dialogue

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Leading article, page 17

Village buried in mudslide

Cabalanian: Floating bodies and thousands of houses with only their roofs showing were about all that was left of this Philippines village of 15,000 people yesterday after it was washed in a mountain of mud.

Fifty people died and 100 were missing after tropical storm Silyl struck at the weekend, causing floods, landslides and mudflows in the region. (Reuters)

200 die in Tamil guerrilla battle

Colombo: At least 200 people were killed as Sri Lankan troops and Tamil Tiger rebels fought on the Jaffna peninsula for a third day, the Sri Lankan Army said. Another 45 Tigers and soldiers were killed in a failed rebel attack off the east coast. Rebel radio reported that 50,000 residents were homeless. (Reuters)

Coup foiled

Freetown: Troops loyal to Sierra Leone's military Government foiled a coup attempt, by officers opposed to plans to end military rule. Six officers were arrested and two lieutenants were on the run. (Reuters)

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I'D HAVE SAVED UP

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'One comrade had prepared a grenade in case one of us should be too badly hurt to go on'

Flight of terror as ruthless Serbs trap the Tigers

I HAVE never seen such fear in the eyes of soldiers; never felt so powerless beneath its weight. The front has disintegrated. The Serbs are upon us. The brigade is collapsing. We are under attack on three sides. The air is striking with flying metal and whizzing shot. We panic and flee.

There are 600 yards of open ground to the nearest treeline, and it is being raked with anti-aircraft fire. Speed is our only hope and in our fear we throw down whatever equipment we can. Even a flak jacket is ditched in the grass. 25lbs of body armour is little use against the shells exploding around us.

I know the rules of this battlefield. I know what happened to the Croats who surrendered in Vukovar and to the Muslims who gave up in Srebrenica. They are dead, and I do not believe for a moment that a press card will save me from a shallow grave. My fear turns to dread at the thought of the captors' mutilating knives. I envy the soldiers running beside me for their pistols. One of my three comrades has prepared a grenade in case one of us should be too badly wounded to go on.

An elite Bosnian brigade had pushed forward along a narrow 12-mile-long salient and been ordered to turn the Serb flank. But the troops were exhausted. They had been fighting for three weeks, advancing on foot over more than 60 miles of mountainous terrain. Their commanders had insisted that they launch a further offensive, but the decision had led to catastrophe. And with hindsight, it was all so obvious.

On the evening of the previous day, accompanied by three other journalists, I had moved to the brigade's forward headquarters. We had been invited by the brigade commander, a man known as The Tiger. Before the war he had been a nightclub owner, but in the 3½ years since he had pulled off a string of



Anthony Loyd, a former Green Jackets officer, and a special correspondent for The Times, was with advancing Bosnian forces when they were routed by a surprise Serb counter-attack near the village of Vrh Polje, eight miles south of Sanski Most

dazzling operations, using initiative seldom encouraged by the Sarajevo command. But now he, too, was exhausted and the night's orders were filled with a sense of foreboding.

After a fireside meal of roast veal, each commander gave similar situation reports. "Our men are exhausted," they said. "Our artillery munitions need to be replenished."

The soldiers' faces were deeply lined and hollow-eyed. Even the arrival of "Juta's Babies", a unit made up of some of the youngest men, did little to dispel the air of fatigue, usually garrulous and wild-

launching their own attack, driving a strong force through the lines behind us. Desperate voices crackled over radios requesting reinforcements and, in a bid to stem the Serb incursion, the Bosnian offensive halted almost as soon as it had begun, as the troops redeployed to face the new Serb threat. The Tiger troops, alone and deep in Serb lines, withdrew hurriedly, returning to our hamlet carrying the body of their commander, killed by a single bullet.

The situation deteriorates rapidly. Units of second-rate reservists holding the rear lines, also break and run beneath Serb fire. Isolated and far forward, the sound of incoming artillery and gunfire grows louder, creeping closer. A Serb Galeb jet flies bombing runs above, sending its payload into the hillside beyond. Nato, embarrassed by the influence on battlefield events of its previous actions, seems to have given up policing the United Nations "no-fly" zones.

Around us the expressions of the Bosnian troops become pensive, their laughter replaced by lengthy silences. Everyone is chain-smoking and listening intently to the radio. But the Serbs have intercepted their frequencies and the desperate pleas of Bosnian commanders calling for fresh troops are broken by Serb voices, swearing.

The brigade commander leaves us, taking with him a group of Tiger troops to respond to a particular crisis

nearby. He does not return, and the doom-laden atmosphere intensifies. As a fresh battle erupts on the crestline above the hamlet, a soldier runs in, telling us that the line around us is broken, that the unit between us and the Serbs has run. Fear overtakes us like a sudden fever. My heart is about to pump itself out of my chest cavity, and my brain is emptying of rational thought. My only urge is to run.

The troops panic and try to escape without a thought of their duties as a unit. The command structure is turned on its head, and if there is one man there to whom I owe my life, it is a junior commander called Maja. While a battalion commander stands besides him in shocked dumbness, Maja halts and reorganises a terrified group.

There is one vehicle, already overloaded with ammunition and mortars; as it tries to pull away, a young Tiger soldier implores its crew to take the body of his commander, a cousin. They refuse. "Fine," he tells them quietly, tapping his grenade launcher. "Go now if you want without him, and I will kill you all with this."

It has been a good life and I accept that I am ready to die. But I don't stop running.

They also stood silently before their commander. We moved forward under cover of darkness, leaving our armoured Land Rover at the base of the salient. It was the last we saw of our equipment; within 12 hours everything was in Serb hands. We continued on foot through lines of advancing troops, their silhouettes illuminated by the weight of their equipment.

In the past week, the Russian media and political sources have been predicting a showdown in a power struggle that has gone on for most of the summer.

At the heart of the dispute is whether Mr Yeltsin should seek re-election next year or make way for the assertive Mr Chernomyrdin, regarded by many as his natural successor. During his three-week holiday

in the Black Sea resort of Sochi, Mr Yeltsin twice scheduled and then cancelled meetings with Mr Chernomyrdin, although he held regular contacts with just about every other senior minister.

Yeltsin reported yesterday that President Yeltsin was considering either sacking the Prime Minister or sending him on "extended leave". On top of the holiday rebuff and some unflattering comments by Mr Yeltsin, Mr Chernomyrdin now appears to have a serious challenger for his job in Yuri Skokov, a hardline nationalist and former head of the Presidential Security Council.

It is almost certain that the perpetrators were extreme nationalists from one of the various factions within the Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organisation (IMRO). Radio reports said that police had arrested two men and sealed the borders.

President Gligorov has been under serious pressure from nationalists within his party and IMRO over his concessions to Greece on the flag and constitution of the republic, in the American-brokered deal with Greece at the end of last month. The last straw was the President's visit to Belgrade

over the weekend and his agreement with President Milosevic of Serbia to a draft agreement that would give de facto recognition to the state under its present name of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. This is seen by IMRO as a sellout to Serbia, and part of the wider pattern of pro-Greek American diplomacy, which the Gligorov Government has been unable to resist.

James Pettifer is a senior associate member of St Antony's College, Oxford

According to the couple, they began living together in 1972 when William asked his 21-year-old sister to join him in a search for God. He said that he was given a mission to bring peace to the world in the year 2000, and that the Book of Leviticus instructed him to take a mate from his family.

All the children have low IQs, between 52 and 86, with 80 being the mark used to determine learning disability. William, a carpenter, builds pyramids which he says protect against hurricanes and asteroids, and guards the fate of humanity.



A Bosnian Serb watches a Muslim tank burn near Vučja Luka in central Bosnia. The vehicle was abandoned during a Bosnian Serb assault

We are together again; four journalists and 14 Bosnian soldiers. What happened to the others, I do not know. Across the plain, artillery is ripping into the ground around the route taken by most of the fleeing group. I thank God that we stayed with Maja.

For four hours we move through an empty landscape of deserted hamlets, dead livestock, and fallen crucifixes, growing more confident in the silence around us. We begin to laugh a little, but are afraid to relax too much. Our panic may have gone, but our position is far from enviable.

We reach Bosnian lines in the darkness. Fresh soldiers are arriving, and Bosnian officers are turning their retreating troops back into the hills to face the Serbs. The rout has stopped. The line is being re-established; the Serb advance contained.

Some wounded soldiers stand quietly beside a bridge waiting for evacuation, smoking and whispering among themselves. Nearby the Tiger soldier whose cousin is dead starts to cry silently beside a river.

Our thoughts begin to gel. In the trees I am surprised to find myself alive. We gather our breath, sprawling occasionally on the ground as shells whine overhead. Although in cover at last, we are still about ten miles from the Bosnian lines that are holding firm, and the Serbs are closing in. Our thoughts begin to gel.

Sarajevo guns defy UN and open fire

FROM STACY SULLIVAN IN SARAJEVO

THE Bosnian Army began firing at Bosnian Serb gun positions from Sarajevo yesterday in overt violation of orders from the United Nations. The action could undermine the forced truce taken by most of the fleeing group. I thank God that we stayed with Maja.

For four hours we move through an empty landscape of deserted hamlets, dead livestock, and fallen crucifixes, growing more confident in the silence around us. We begin to laugh a little, but are afraid to relax too much. Our panic may have gone, but our position is far from enviable.

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Kremlin chiefs meet amid growing tension

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin of Russia and Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, held their first meeting in weeks yesterday amid speculation that strains in the relationship could lead to Mr Chernomyrdin's dismissal or resignation.

For the past week, the Russian media and political sources have been predicting a showdown in a power struggle that has gone on for most of the summer.

At the heart of the dispute is whether Mr Yeltsin should seek re-election next year or make way for the assertive Mr Chernomyrdin, regarded by many as his natural successor. During his three-week holiday

in the Black Sea resort of Sochi, Mr Yeltsin twice scheduled and then cancelled meetings with Mr Chernomyrdin, although he held regular contacts with just about every other senior minister.

Yeltsin reported yesterday that President Yeltsin was considering either sacking the Prime Minister or sending him on "extended leave". On top of the holiday rebuff and some unflattering comments by Mr Yeltsin, Mr Chernomyrdin now appears to have a serious challenger for his job in Yuri Skokov, a hardline nationalist and former head of the Presidential Security Council.

It is almost certain that the perpetrators were extreme nationalists from one of the various factions within the Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organisation (IMRO). Radio reports said that police had arrested two men and sealed the borders.

President Gligorov has been under serious pressure from nationalists within his party and IMRO over his concessions to Greece on the flag and constitution of the republic, in the American-brokered deal with Greece at the end of last month. The last straw was the President's visit to Belgrade

over the weekend and his agreement with President Milosevic of Serbia to a draft agreement that would give de facto recognition to the state under its present name of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. This is seen by IMRO as a sellout to Serbia, and part of the wider pattern of pro-Greek American diplomacy, which the Gligorov Government has been unable to resist.

James Pettifer is a senior associate member of St Antony's College, Oxford

According to the couple, they began living together in 1972 when William asked his 21-year-old sister to join him in a search for God. He said that he was given a mission to bring peace to the world in the year 2000, and that the Book of Leviticus instructed him to take a mate from his family.

All the children have low IQs, between 52 and 86, with 80 being the mark used to determine learning disability. William, a carpenter, builds pyramids which he says protect against hurricanes and asteroids, and guards the fate of humanity.

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Macedonia leader survives car bomb attack by militants

BY JAMES PETTIFER

PRESIDENT GLIGOROV of Macedonia survived a car bomb attack yesterday that killed his driver and seriously injured three bystanders in central Skopje.

Doctors at the capital's main hospital said that Mr Gligorov, 78, suffered head injuries but was conscious and able to talk while being treated. But diplomatic reports said he was critically injured.

The attempted assassination is likely to mark a new phase in the struggle for the former Yugoslav republic. Although no group has claimed responsibility, it is almost certain that the perpetrators were extreme nationalists from one of the various factions within the Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organisation (IMRO). Radio reports said that police had arrested two men and sealed the borders.

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Gligorov: believed to be critically injured

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Man 'fathered eight children by sister'

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

A FLORIDA couple with eight children are facing incest charges after claims that they are brother and sister.

The pair are known only as William M., 64, and Deborah M., 44, to protect the identity of the children. The youngsters, aged between one and 19, are said to have mental and emotional problems.

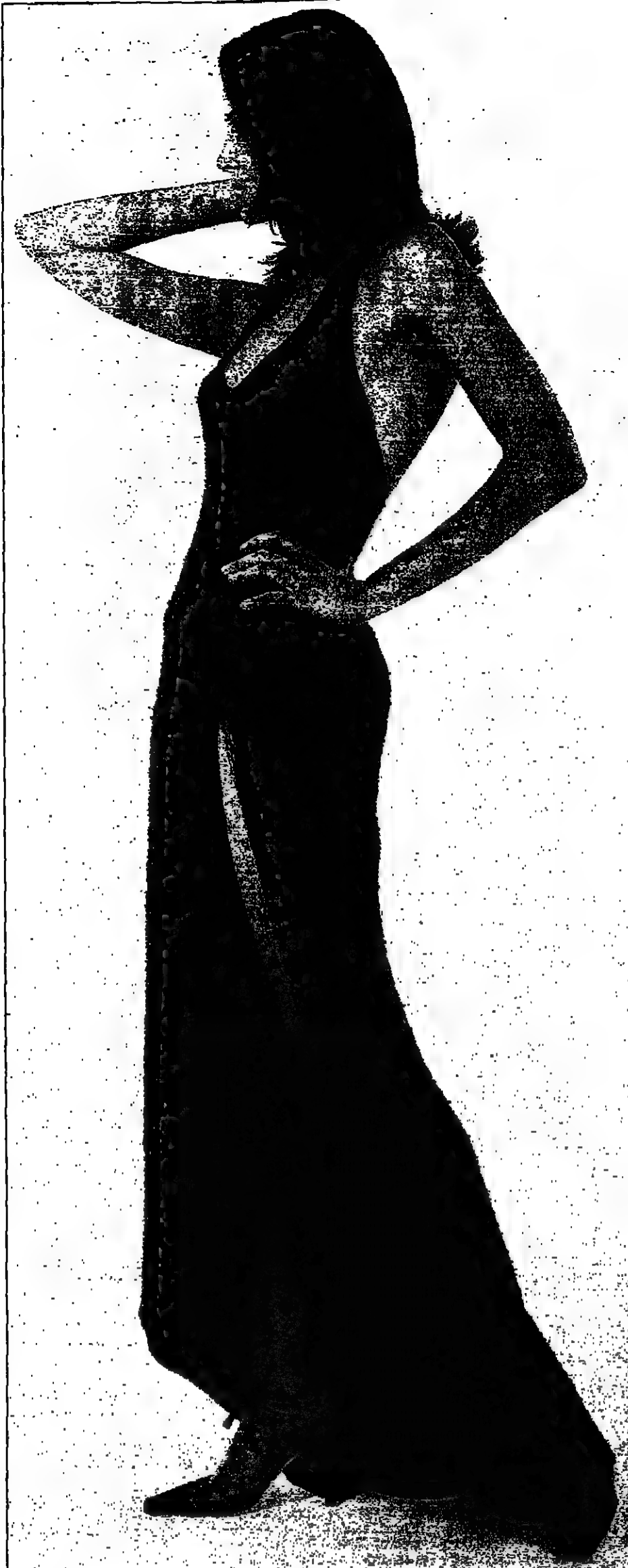
If the parents go to jail, all but the eldest will be sent to foster homes. Social workers have persuaded a judge to let them stay with their mother pending trial on October 30. The pair were brought up in a family of a dozen in Miami.

According to the couple, they began living together in 1972 when William asked his 21-year-old sister to join him in a search for God. He said that he was given a mission to bring peace to the world in the year 2000, and that the Book of Leviticus instructed him to take a mate from his family.

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ABOVE: Grey wool knitted top, £180; red wool trousers, £250; stilettos to order from Hussein Chalayan at Jones, 15 Floral Street, WC2; Brown's 27 South Molton Street, W1 (0171-240 5224). Leather bag, £380, Anya Hindmarch at 91 Walton Street, SW3; Harrods, Knightsbridge, SW1; Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, SW1; Liberty, Regent Street, W1.



RIGHT: Black chiffon beaded halter dress, to order, Catherine Walker, 65 Sydney Street, SW3 (0171-352 4525). Black ankle tie shoes, £280, Manolo Blahnik at 49-51 Old Church Street, SW3 (0171-362 3863).



ABOVE: Chocolate brown fleck jacket, £249; matching skirt, £109, Jaeger London (0171-200 4211).

LEFT: Brown lake snake belted jacket, £244.99; black stretch skirt, £24.99; black skirt, £31.99, Oasis, 292 Regent Street, W1 and branches (0171-436 0474). Kitten heel shoes, £260, Manolo Blahnik (see above).

RIGHT: Black beaded/mesh jacket to order; black satin jeans, £95, Nicole Farhi, 166 New Bond Street, W1 (0171-499 6369). Turquoise silk shirt, £95, Whistles, 27 Sloane Square, SW1 (0171-730 9619). Black turtleneck, £120, Stephen Jones, Savile Row, Oxford Street, W1; high loafers, £115, Patrick Cox, 129 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-730 8886).

Photographs: CHRIS DAWES
Make-up: Stephanie Jenkins
Hair: Kevin Ford for Headmasters, Wimbledon Village (0181-947 5034)



Winning looks for winter

The winter wardrobe shown on this page is British fashion at its best, with something to offer at every price level — from a pencil skirt suit by Jaeger to Catherine Walker's beaded gown, a stretch shirt by Oasis, or a shiny version by Whistles.

Hussein Chalayan's slim wool trousers provide something red. Nicole Farhi has a great tuxedo trouser suit, while the fake snake jacket by Oasis is a must.

Then the accessories which count: Manolo Blahnik's kitten heels, Patrick Cox's high loafers, Anya Hindmarch's car-paint shiny bag, and a turtleneck by Stephen Jones.

As the fashion world prepares for the start of a four-week frockathon — beginning tomorrow when Italian designers unveil their new lines for spring/summer 1996, and travelling from Milan to Paris, London and New York — British designers are also preparing for their annual awards ceremony.

The Lloyds Bank British



Fashion Awards 1995, held at the Natural History Museum in London and the glamorous finale to London Fashion Week, is more than a contest: it is a back-slapping celebration of the cream of British fashion.

This year there is good reason. Even those who do not walk away with a trophy at the end of the evening still have reason to congratulate themselves. Britain's high street stores have never looked better, stocked with well-priced, up-to-the-minute merchandise which often features alongside designer labels in the glossy magazines. The Fashion Week schedule covers five days with 33 catwalk presentations.

British fashion is also making heads turn on the interna-

tional stage. Earlier this year John Galiano, Designer of the Year at last year's awards, made headlines around the world when he was officially introduced as the new designer-in-chief at the couture house of Givenchy in Paris. Galiano is again nominated for Designer of the Year, which would make it a hat-trick for the young star.

"The Lloyds Bank British Fashion Awards is a high-profile award that is respected worldwide," Galiano says. "It has become an important event on the world fashion calendar."

There are now 11 awards with three new design-orientated categories introduced: Retailer (featuring high street labels), Street Style (young and funky fashion for which we are envious around the globe), and Contemporary Collections (upmarket designer labels). Two other new awards are for Fashion Personality and Fashion Journalist of the Year.

Since sponsoring the awards we've been keen to broaden the event to reflect the British public's growing interest in fashion," says David Goldsmyne, the sponsorship manager at Lloyds Bank. "High-quality clothing backed by world-class design talent is now available on the high street. The new categories recognise this."

Whatever the results of the awards, the sheer diversity of British fashion certainly deserves celebration.

• The Lloyds Bank British Fashion Awards will be featured in a Clothes Show special on Sunday, October 29.

NOMINEES	
CONTEMPORARY COLLECTIONS	ACCESSORY
NICOLE FARHI	PATRICK COX
JOSEPH	STEPHEN JONES
BETTY JACKSON	ANYA HINDMARCH
JOHN ROCHA	MANOLO BLAHNIK
CLASSICS	GLAMOUR
MARKS & SPENCER	BEN DE LISI
JAEGER	AMANDA WAKELEY
JOHN SMEDLEY	CATHERINE WALKER
AQUASCUTUM	BELLVILLE ASSOCIATES
RETAILER	NEW GENERATION
OASIS	PEARCE RONDA
WAREHOUSE	CLEMENTS RIBEIRO
JIGSAW	HUSSEIN CHALAYAN
STREET STYLE	SONNENTAG MULLIGAN
RED OR DEAD	DESIGNER OF THE YEAR
SIGN OF THE TIMES	JOHN GALLIANO
PATRICK COX	PATRICK COX
HUSSEIN CHALAYAN	GHOST
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O. J. WALKS

Who was the true victim of the Simpson case?

The opening of the sealed envelope containing the jury's verdict was as dramatic a finale to the O.J. Simpson trial as any scriptwriter could have devised. It was prime time *par excellence*: the silence in the court was riveting as Judge Ito awaited the result of the jurors' astonishingly brief deliberations. The case ended as it began, in a sensation televised around the globe. For a moment yesterday, America — and much of the world — came to a standstill to hear the not guilty verdict.

The sheer brevity of the 12 jurors' debate had encouraged expectation of just the opposite. Surely they could not have dismissed the prosecution's forensic case in a mere four hours? Surely, in fact, they had found these arguments so compelling that they had ignored completely the claims of the defence that Mr Simpson was the victim of police racism? These speculations proved spectacularly ill-founded. Evidently, the predominantly black jury came to a swift consensus that the defendant had fallen foul of racist attitudes in the Los Angeles Police Department. It could not convict him of the murder of his wife Nicole and her friend Ronald Goldman.

Sometimes, the trial seemed more of a televisual spectacle than an exercise in democratic justice. In the course of this long-running legal soap opera, many were fooled by the claim that the nation itself was in the dock. In practice, however, the trial was not a judgment on American society; it was a battle between two definitions of justice. On the one hand, the jurors were invited to judge Mr Simpson using the traditional procedures of the American criminal justice system. They were invited to assess forensic evidence, the question of alibi and possible motive. They were asked to form a judgment on the facts presented to them, and form that judgment irrespective of its consequences outside the courtroom.

But other persuasive forces were at work. The jurors were also invited to see Mr Simpson as a victim of racist conspiracy and an emblem for the suffering of America's blacks: a representative of an embattled social group, in other words, rather than a morally free individual. Likewise, the taped bigoted remarks of one detective, Mark Fuhrman, became symbolic of centuries of racist oppression. One legal expert described the trial as "the Chernobyl of racial justice" raining "fall-out" down upon an uneasy nation. Johnnie Cochran, the defence attorney, spoke of police racism as "America's nightmare" and urged the jury to do something about it. "Maybe you're the right people at the right time and the right place to say: 'No more!'" he told them. A not guilty verdict, he appeared to suggest, would somehow compensate for the hurt caused to America's blacks in the past. The jury seems to have been persuaded by his fiery persuasion.

There may be no race riots in Los Angeles as a result of this verdict, but there will be plenty of angry questions. The vindication of the defence case will persuade many blacks that the Los Angeles Police Department is irredeemably racist and that Mr Simpson's experience was no different from the beating administered to Rodney King in 1991. It is hard to be optimistic about the implications of this trial for that city. But it is to be hoped that other Americans will not treat the verdict as a verdict on their society.

Not all cities are like Los Angeles; not all policemen are racist. Few trials are as bitterly politicised as this one. A nation cannot resolve its psychic traumas in a courtroom and should not try. Yesterday Mr Simpson sped off to liberty, pursued on the freeway once more. Months of agonised analysis and media introspection will doubtless follow; but all that really matters is that his wife's murderer is still on the loose.

BLAIR'S NEW WORLD

Will tomorrow's Britain take moral leadership from any party?

Tony Blair is emerging as the magpie of British politics, and his leader's speech yesterday opened up to the world the contents of his nest. Gleaning new technological policies for the information world (shades of Harold Wilson) sat side by side with invocations to make Britain great again (courtesy of Margaret Thatcher) and to recreate it as one nation (thanks to Disraeli). But the greatest power and passion was reserved for a Kennedyesque call for national moral renewal.

In an echo of the passing of power from one generation to another when President Kennedy took office, Mr Blair talked of Britain becoming a "young" country again, "where people succeed on the basis of what they give to their country, rather than what they take from their country". He plundered the Bible too: "I am my brother's keeper. I will not walk by on the other side."

Mr Blair has a good sense for the anxieties of modern Britain: the paradox that rising prosperity has been accompanied by greater insecurity, and not just at work. "We suffer a depth of insecurity and spiritual doubt," he said of his generation, that his parents never knew. It is a generation "frightened for our future and unsure of our soul".

Souls are more usually the stuff of pulpits than politics. But the Labour leader knows that there is a nerve there to be touched. Margaret Thatcher set out to reverse the economic decline of Britain; Mr Blair wants to address the country's moral and social decline. In some ways this is a harder task. Politicians cannot legislate to make people help or respect each other. They cannot pass laws to create social cohesion or restore hope. All that they can do is to lead a crusade by exhortation and hope that the people will

be inspired to follow. The ground is undoubtedly fertile. Idealism has virtually vanished from politics and the young in particular are in danger of being disconnected and alienated from the democratic system. They have ideals in abundance, but are reluctant to trust politicians with them: Mr Blair's blatant appeal to youth, in his vision of a "young country", is designed to entice the young back into mainstream politics.

Older generations too sense a loss of moral fibre and shared values, which is why politicians on both sides of the Atlantic have been exploring ways of recreating a community spirit. Mr Blair yesterday stole their lines. "We have to have the courage to build a new civic society, a new social order — where everyone has a stake and everyone plays a part."

The Conservatives have tried to play this game. But Mr Blair's moral crusade will be as difficult to ape as it will be to criticise. The Tories have many lines of attack on Labour: they can point to the dangers of a resurgence of the Left, to economic incompetence, to old Labour in local government or to promises that cannot be delivered without higher taxation. Yet they cannot persuade voters to doubt the sincerity or conviction of the Labour leader when he seizes the moral high ground.

Nor can they claim it for themselves. Too many promises have been broken, too much sleaze uncovered — and the Scott report is still to come. Mr Blair is occupying political territory that he will find easy to defend. The British will no longer take moral leadership from the Conservatives. The Tories' only hope must be that the British will take it from no one.

ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE

Britain must stand by France over nuclear testing

With each nuclear test in the South Pacific, the opposition to France grows ever more clamorous. After the first test last month, riots ripped across Tahiti, many European foreign ministers blustered censoriously about the environment, the antipodean Commonwealth lost its customary poise — and Greenpeace was, well, Greenpeace. Now, after the second French test on Monday, this criticism has seemed to approach boiling point.

The Pacific Forum has severed ties with Paris (although individual states have been careful not to break off diplomatic relations with the Government of President Chirac), and the Prime Ministers of Australia and New Zealand have turned their political muskets on a brand new target. That target is Britain.

But why Britain? The answer, in so far as there is any which responds to reason, lies in the Government's failure to board the bandwagon of protest and hysteria. The Foreign Office has, instead, been circumspect — perhaps too circumspect. "If the French decide there is a need to have tests before a comprehensive test ban treaty, that is a matter for them, and for them to justify," a spokesman said.

Of course the tests are a matter for the French; and Britain, with an acute understanding of sovereign rights and their exercise, has done well to emphasise that fact. The French, for their part, have justified their nuclear tests sufficiently well to satisfy

the reasonable inquirer. As Hervé de Charette, their Foreign Minister, has explained — as have numerous French scientists and strategic planners — these tests are needed to ensure the safety of that country's nuclear arsenal. For practical and technical reasons, France is not yet in a position to rely on laboratory simulation for safety testing.

The "environmentalist" objections to French practice, however, have escaped the net of common sense. Attitudes and postures are being struck by politicians, particularly in Australia and New Zealand, which are as simplistic as they are opportunistic. A complex matter, which repays careful attention, has acquired the flavour of a bad Western: us versus them, good guys and bad guys, nuclear "cowboys" versus pacific, earth-conscious "Indians". No matter that the real nuclear dangers lie elsewhere, in Chernobyl, and in the ageing reactors to be found still in Russia, Central Europe and across the former Soviet Union.

The truth, of course, is that the vociferous opposition to the French tests is fed by an opposition to nuclear deterrence itself. That is why Britain is right not to criticise France: in fact, how could it? Little has occurred since the end of the Cold War to suggest that nuclear deterrence is no longer a legitimate part of Britain's strategic equation. Paris subscribes to the same logic, which is why it wants to ensure that its weapons work before it ceases testing altogether.

Nato priorities in Eastern Europe

From Mr Hugh Hanning

Sir, Your leader of September 29, "Strategic priorities", is first-class in every particular. The enlargement of Nato is an extraordinary idea, and not just because of Russian apprehensions. It could also commit British troops and taxpayers to defending Hungarians against Romanians, or vice versa.

A far better idea has been the constructive collaboration of Partnership for Peace, the defence arrangement between Nato and the former members of the Warsaw Pact, which is simultaneously advancing the new life-saving role of Nato and encouraging enlightened policies in Eastern Europe.

If Nato still feels a responsibility to deter Russia in that part of the world, there exists a very powerful option: non-military deterrence. This has scarcely been tried. But there is every reason to believe that the Russians would do anything to avoid a repetition of the pulverising economic punishment which they received for Afghanistan in the 1980s, and which virtually brought the Government down.

Properly used as a deterrent, this weapon could be quite as effective, safer and much more credible than any nuclear guarantee.

Yours etc,
HUGH HANNING,
18 Montpellier Row, Blackheath, SE3.
October 1.

From Mr Ralph L. Broughton

Sir, A proposal to extend the membership of Nato — already an unwieldy body — to include other countries formerly associated with the USSR would be extraordinary at any time; but to announce it (report, September 27) when it is essential to have Russia's agreement to a peace plan for former Yugoslavia is astonishing.

The proposals, if put into effect, would be tantamount to a revival of the Cold War. That "every effort will be made to reassure Moscow that the expansion plans pose no threat to Russia", as the Nato document apparently makes clear, is completely futile.

I am saddened and profoundly disturbed that this country should be party to a Nato plan which is plainly provocative.

Yours faithfully,
RALPH L. BROUGHTON,
28 Woodmansterne Lane,
Banstead, Surrey.
October 2.

Bomber's manifesto

From Mr Bernard Barnett

Sir, I write, both as a former journalist and as a colleague of one of the victims of the American Unabomber, to deplore the unanimous condemnation by British newspaper editors (Media, September 27) of *The Washington Post's* decision to publish the Unabomber's 35,000-word treatise.

It scarcely compromises the integrity of the press to devote part of one issue of a publication that appears virtually every day of the year to a newsworthy — and, as a matter of fact, not uninteresting — insight into the mind of this killer.

Neither is it submission to blackmail. The Unabomber made an offer to cease his attacks on people if the *Post* or *The New York Times* would print his diatribe. Somewhat to his surprise, I think, the *Post*, with the support of the *NYT*, took him up on it.

Having seen and endured the grief that the Unabomber has inflicted on my own company — though of course this is nothing compared with the pain and suffering of the family — I applaud the *Post's* courageous action in seeking to prevent a recurrence. If it succeeds it will have performed a priceless public service. Isn't that the first function of the press?

Yours faithfully,
BERNARD BARNETT
(Executive Vice-President),
Young & Rubicam Europe,
Greater London House,
Hamstead Road, NW1.
September 28.

Serving the needy

From the Right Reverend J. R. Satterthwaite

Sir, Your leader of September 26 suggests that the Church of St Dunstan-in-the-West could well have its crypt used as a wine bar or restaurant. May I remind you that there were plans afoot in the 1960s to turn it into a shelter for the homeless and destitute.

As well as being a Benedictine, St Dunstan was also a great reformer of the Church in his day. Some of us hope that his premises can be used to the benefit of those less fortunate and in greater need than most who work or live in that part of the City.

El Vino's and the other restaurant wine bars in Fleet Street have long rendered excellent service to many of us involved in the service of Christ.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN R. SATTERTHWAITE
(Vicar of St Dunstan-in-the-West, 1059-1970),
25 Spencer House,
St Paul's Square, Carlisle, Cumbria.
September 27.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 3046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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'Reform' of degree classification

From the Vice-Chancellor of the Nottingham Trent University

Sir, Your Shakespearean vision (leading article, "Take but degree away", September 30; reports, September 30) of the disorder which might follow any modification of the British degree classification system is perhaps slightly over the top.

My own view is that it is now urgently necessary to supplement the present degree classifications with further key information describing the skills and abilities of particular graduates for the benefit of future employers.

To their credit, recruiters of graduates have regularly told higher education that they look for more than academic and professional skills in prospective employees. In particular, they value skills in analysis, leadership and communication.

If these various skills could be profiled, assessed and described in a standard way across the higher education system (perhaps through higher-level national vocational qualifications) we could have the best of both worlds: traditional academic practice supplemented by accurate, reliable and useful information.

It is unfair, therefore, to suggest, as you do, that the current thinking of the vice-chancellors is influenced by "political correctness" or a desire simply to escape the traditional degree classifications.

We now have an opportunity to describe the abilities and potential abilities of our graduates in ways which respect both the need for national standards and the individual talents of particular students. We can move forward, through partnership, and avoid the "mere opportunism" which Shakespeare's Ulysses feared would flow from any disturbance of the traditional order.

Yours sincerely,
RAY COWELL,
Vice-Chancellor,
The Nottingham Trent University,
Burton Street, Nottingham.
October 2.

From Professor C. W. Davidson

Sir, Congratulations on your leader supporting the retention of the present degree classification system. As you suggest, a change to providing a record of attainment would mean merely that those who are awarded a high

classification under the present system would be given a glowing assessment by their lecturers. This would not address the root problem, which arises because there is not, and never has been, an absolute standard for a first-class honours degree.

A first in languages, for example, cannot be compared on an absolute scale with a first in science. Even a comparison of degrees in the same discipline, but from different departments, can only hope to show rough equality because our external examination system is at best imperfect.

I do not believe that there has been a decline in the standards set by the best universities. However, as the institutions awarding degrees have proliferated there is now a much greater difficulty in standardising the classification of degrees between universities and a much broader range in the standards set.

The Higher Education Quality Council has the responsibility to address this matter and must do so urgently, but within the framework of the present classification system. Changing the system will not solve the problem.

Yours faithfully,
COLIN W. DAVIDSON,
20 East Barnum Avenue,
Edinburgh 4.
October 2.

From Professor A. I. Solomon

Sir, Universities in the UK invariably involve an external examiner in the classification of degrees in order to maintain consistency; there is therefore no reason why "a first from a former polytechnic" should be easier to obtain than one from Oxbridge (as your leader writer assumes), although the latter may well be more "prestigious" for other, less tangible, reasons.

In addition to awarding the usual degree classifications, the Open University has always supplied transcripts of the student's record of attainment. This solution would appear to go some way to reassuring the vice-chancellors as well as satisfying the traditionalists.

Yours etc,
ALLAN SOLOMON,
Faculty of Mathematics and Computing,
The Open University,
Milton Keynes MK7 6AA.
October 1.

When our money runs out we will not qualify for income support or mortgage relief, as I work over 16 hours a week. We could lose our home, as our mortgage is over the £100,000 threshold and the State won't pick up the tab for the total amount of the monthly repayments.

We cannot even think about selling our house in the current housing market climate so we are powerless to reduce our outgoings at this time. Our prospects for maintaining our lifestyle are very poor indeed.

What an example the Government is setting our children when they see how much easier it is to survive when you do nothing to help yourself. Being proud of working and paying our way does not even guarantee keeping the roof over our heads.

Yours sincerely,
S. TAYLOR,
Gingerbury,
Cox Green, Rudgwick, West Sussex.
September 27.

Hong Kong passports

From the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China

Sir, Referring to your editorial of September 26, "Home truths", and Sir David Ford's letter to the Editor of September 28, I would like to make two points:

The remarks by Hong Kong Governor Chris Patten about granting 3.3 million Hong Kong people the right to settle in Britain are irresponsible.

They break the British Government's own words in its memorandum exchanged with China at the time of signing the Joint Declaration, which stated clearly that the British Dependent Territories citizens (BDTCs) in the territory would cease to be BDTCs from July 1, 1997, "but will be eligible to retain an appropriate status which, without conferring the right of abode in the United Kingdom, will enable them to continue to use passports issued by the Government of the United Kingdom".

It has long been agreed by China and Britain that Hong Kong's political system after 1997 will remain to be executive-led and that the democratic development should be gradual. The governor's unilateral move to speed up the pace of democratisation so as to create what Sir David Ford refers to as "more representative government" in Hong Kong goes against this principle.

To survive 1997, Hong Kong's three-tier structure must first be in conformity with the Joint Declaration and the Basic Law, and secondly be agreed by China. Mr Patten's package meets neither of these conditions. The Legislative Council thus returned can only have a life-span of less than two years. China has no obligations to accept the *fait accompli* created by Mr Patten.

Yours etc,
MA YUZHEN,
Embassy of the People's Republic of China,
49-51 Portland Place, W1.
October 1.

A sailor's tanner to save Greenwich?

From Commander Roger Payne, RN

Sir, Just over 400 years ago Sir John Hawkins, then Treasurer of the Tudor Navy, founded the "Chatham Chest" for the relief of sick and wounded Elizabethan sailors and that from 1625 onwards every man was ordered to contribute sixpence a month from his wages to this early "charitable fund". The money was dropped through a tiny hole into the chest which was secured by four padlocks, the keys of which were reputedly held by four different admirals in order to prevent clandestine embezzlement.

In 1803 the chest was renamed the "Chatham Chest" and the accrued contents combined with the funds of the Greenwich Hospital to maintain the buildings which now comprise the RN College, Greenwich. The original chest can still be seen today at the nearby National Maritime Museum.

As the Greenwich College site is now controversially on the open market (letters, September 11, 14, 19) at an annual rental of £400,000 it might be appropriate to re-establish use of the chest and obtain mandatory contributions from today's serving officers and men.

Even by conservative estimates of inflation sixpence (2½p) must be worth at least £10 so that a single month's contributions from every one of the 50,000 members of the 1995 Royal Navy would easily pay the first year's rent in advance and ensure the RN remains on its historic site.

As agents, Messrs Knight, Frank and Rutley would be custodians of the padlock keys.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,
ROGER PAYNE,
4 Yeats Close, Eliot Park, SE13.
October 1.

'Peter Pan' student

From Professor Stanley Peart, FRS

Sir, The case of the 32-year-old medical student, Mr Brian Mackinnon, who succeeded in feigning the age of 17 and in passing his school exams (reports, September 20, 21, 25-30) raises some interesting questions.

Only Glasgow University knows the reason for turning down his application for readmission to the medical course for which it had accepted him when younger; but his subsequent expulsion from Dundee University seems rather harsh, despite the false pretences under which he had been accepted there.

I may have been over-impressed by Mr Mackinnon's determination to succeed and by his ingenuity; but medical students frequently give reasons for wishing to enter medicine which may not be wholly credible or verifiable, and they may then drop out even after qualification.

Surely, even now, there is a case for clemency? We all expect the highest standards from doctors, but some may have to turn on the road to Damascus — or even Dundee.

Yours etc,
STANLEY PEART,
17 Highgate Close, N6.
October 2.

Copts and Orthodox

From Mr Andrew Bond

Sir, You report ("Priest's Elm business blooms", September 30) that the Reverend Tony Clements is one of a number of former Anglican clergymen who have been recently ordained in the "Orthodox Church".

Mr Clements is joining the group of English people who are part of the Coptic Church, which is based in Egypt. This group do use the word "Orthodox" in their title (British Orthodox Church), as do the Coptic Church as a whole. It should be made clear, however, that there exists a profound doctrinal difference between them and the "Greek" Orthodox Church.

The Copts have gone their own separate way since their refusal to accept the decisions of the 4th Ecumenical Council held in Chalcedon in the year 451. The doctrinal stumbling block was, and still is, the two natures of Christ (divine and human). The Copts are known as Monophysites because they believe that Christ had only one nature. His divine nature.

The consequence of this is that Christ did not become man in the full sense but merely took on the outward appearance of a man in order to walk on earth. This doctrine deprives the sacrifice on Calvary of reality, making it simply a charade, with devastating consequences for our salvation.

Yours,
ANDREW BOND (Editor),
Orthodox News,
64 Prebend Gardens, W6.
October 1.

Party colours

From Mr Stephen L. Phillips

Sir, I note that, in your Sports section's "Premiership at a glance" table today, red indicates "up"; blue indicates "down"; and orange indicates "unchanged".

Do you expect to use the same colour scheme when reporting the outcome of the next general election?

Yours sincerely,
STEPHEN L. PHILLIPS,
The Mount, Chirk, Clwyd.
October 2.

هذه ايدى الايدى

Rachel Kelly
reports on the
growing trend for
constructing a
home of your own

practice is commonplace in America and in much of the rest of Europe. But money is also important. Self-builders can save cash by doing some of the work themselves, by cutting out the developer's profit, and by saving some of the 17.5 per cent VAT on building materials payable by commercial builders. The Customs and Excise rules are tricky: they allow self-builders to claim back most of the VAT payable on obvious items such as kitchen units, double glazing, bathroom fittings and gas fires, but excluding carpets, cookers and electric fires.

**'Now it is
white-collar
workers who
are building
their own
homes'**

struction, a supplier of timber-frame kits, has seen a 50 per cent increase in turnover in the past year. "As property prices continue to fall, self-builders find themselves

having a financial safety net, as their new homes are worth more on the day that they are finished than the cost of building them," he says. Maggie White, from another kit

firm Medina Gimson, says: "The boom in the market has happened because families have become aware that building your own house doesn't mean having to get

your hands dirty. Those building their own homes have changed from those who are involved in the building industry to those with no prior knowledge. They are now

Building your own home has also become easier since the launch

In the past, mortgage lenders were wary of making an advance against a house that did not yet exist. Most of them were prepared to lend only 50 to 75 per cent of the cost. Today the Yorkshire and Bradford & Bingley building societies will lend up to 75 per cent, while the Ecology Building Society will lend up to 80 per cent on highly energy-efficient houses.

A few lenders are now taking advantage of the enthusiasm for self-building by advancing larger percentage loans. The TSB is offering a 95 per cent mortgage.

Mr Dodds adds that self-builders should not underestimate the problems that they might face. Chief among these are finding a suitable site, negotiating with planners for

"The costs of self-building often tend to end up higher than builders have anticipated," Mr Dodds says. He also suggests that self-builders

● **ASEA: 0800 387310.** Finding land: The National Land-Finding Agency 01371 876675 and Landbank Services 01734 618002 provide a list of available plots on subscription. Most firms pro-



David Morrissey and Lorraine Horton, both 25, finished building their new home in 1990. "It is within the reach of most people if they are prepared to put in the work," says Morrissey. "If you project themselves, they saved on building costs."

The couple took 11 weeks to build their double-fronted, detached home while they lived in one room loaned to them by Mr Horton's brother near by.

including fees, and £35,000 on land bought from a local builder, with funding through the Leeds Building Society. Having paid for the plot out of the sale of their previous house in the village, they had just £25 left in the bank. By designing and managing the building

Mr Morrissey's advice is to plan carefully and seek some specialist advice. The plot already had detailed planning permission, so the couple kept the basic shape of the house, but redesigned the internal layout and gained

[illegible]

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The satellite buy-up will continue apace, but there will always be something left for terrestrial broadcasters

Sport cannot live on TV cash alone

Here's an idea: listed books. Now that the collapse of the Net Book Agreement has threatened our literary culture, the law should declare a few popular books so essential to defining who we are that they should be given away. They need not be stuffy books — many people would think Delia Smith's summer and winter recipes a cornerstone of national identity.

So why should certain sporting events qualify for protection from the marketplace? Because, a young man shrieked almost to the point of weeping on Channel 4's *Right to Reply* on Saturday, he wanted his children to grow up seeing the same sports that he had enjoyed on television. I forget his name, but I remember Sir Paul Fox.

At the Royal Television Society's convention in Cambridge last month, Sir Paul, whose many achievements include helping to found *Grandstand* on the BBC, called for political action to preserve much-loved sporting occasions exclusively for terrestrial television. Why? Because they are

a significant factor in uniting the nation. Since when has that been the case? Red telephone boxes were a unifying national experience but, with hard-fought exceptions, they have gone. The face crossing over the Severn bridge was a unifying factor, too, but the bridge, one day the bridge had new private owners who charged tolls and who raised the tolls higher and higher each time the fancy takes them, dogging the "James" of Gloucestershire with tolls levied evading the toll.

I might try to sympathise with Sir Paul's plea were it not for the fact that he is a man who has helped to found *Grandstand* on the BBC, called for political action to preserve much-loved sporting occasions exclusively for terrestrial television. Why? Because they are

Sports are by no means the most popular spectacle on television, and there is no point citing Torvill and Dean as last year's most-watched sporting event. That's sex, not sport.

The real reason why the law should not intervene — and I said so long before I wrote for a newspaper owned by the part-owner of BSkyB, which is buying up sports rights for satellite television — is that it is not the business of government to stop athletes, with their short, risky working life, or their promoters from selling their services to whomsoever they choose.

Besides, government intervention is muddled and murky. The 1990 Broadcasting Act singles out eight classic events which may not be shown on "pay-per-view" television. But that scarcely exists — nothing in the existing law keeps these sacred spectacles off satellite



BRENDA MADDOX

subscription channels, only from being sold for an additional charge.

Where is the protection for the national interest in that? MPs may clamour for something to be done, but, as with calls for a privacy law, that something is hard to define. At Cambridge, the wise heads of sports all agreed that most sport will end up on satellite television, with boxing leading the way.

And women will not weep. The "listed" sporting events are special only to those who love them — men. The grandiose claim, in the BBC's *People and Programmes*, that they "loom as large as religious feast-days once did" is ludicrous.

The BBC's own graph on sports viewing "by gender" shows that in 1992 football drew only 15 per cent of the women compared with nearly 50 per cent of the men. Neither boxing nor rugby was in the female top ten: on top, and second on the men's list, was snooker — not protected at all.

What sports lovers should be clamouring for is a higher licence fee for the BBC — and more assistance, either from the BBC or the social services, for those who cannot afford to pay it. The BBC in future will have to pay more for less sport, and will need more money to do so: a licence fee

pegged below the retail price index is not good enough.

Yet pessimism should not reign unconfined. Football, cricket and racing will not disappear from the terrestrial screen because of the self-preservation instincts of clubs and players, who know their sport cannot survive on cash alone. It needs the mass audience, new young fans and sustained attendance. Players, too, know that sponsors will not pay them to wear their branded T-shirts and trainers if only an elite audience is watching.

The electronic box-office has arrived, some 50 years after it was first thought of. In the United States in the late Forties scrambled signals, or "pay-as-you-see TV", were briefly seen as the only way to support a nationwide television service.

What matters now is to be sure that the electronic box-office is open

to all sellers, and that the licence fee is kept healthy so that there will be something free for non-buyers to watch.

Differences in sex show up in habits of newspaper reading as well as television viewing. A survey out today by CIA Medialab reveals that men and women devour quite different sections of their papers. Sections devoted to women have the most consistent levels of readership: on average 70 per cent of female readers will read the women's pages. Women also love the weekend review sections, while men gravitate to the business and sports sections.

The survey dispelled the myths that sections are intrinsically unpopular, and confirmed that most readers are irritated by mail-order advertising in colour supplements. But why didn't they ask about the real irritant: the shiny bits that fall out when you are trying to find the section you want? I find it helps to read the weekend newspapers near an open fire.

The art of the interview

Presenter Nick Clarke explains why *The World at One* has always got to the heart of the story

Nick Clarke's interview technique is ill-mannered and absurd. What is the object here? — one listener's indignation fulminated out of the log of calls to the BBC out of office. He evidently did not like what he had just heard on Radio 4's *The World at One* — a discussion with the Shadow Chancellor, Gordon Brown, on Labour's plans for a windfall tax on the water and electricity companies.

If possible, I always respond to such criticism. This time there was no address, but even if there had been, I doubt whether this critic would have been soothed by the usual words: "... must stem the flow of statistics ... probe the implications of a policy proposal ... put across the listener's questions ..."

But one little phrase of this complaint stuck in my mind: "What is the object here?" A fair question, and one which *The World at One* tries to ask itself each morning — even after some 8,000 lunchtimes and 30 years in the business of reporting, and sometimes making, the news.

There are so many political interviews on radio and television, in newspapers and magazines, that we ought to be the best-informed nation on earth. Yet some have all the stimulation of a cup of airless coffee. We are in danger of drowning in a brown broth of words, delivered by experts and peppered with unhelpful interjections.

It wasn't always so. *The World at One* was in at the start of the whole gargantuan business. The programme was launched on October 17, 1965, by Clarend Mansell, then head of the BBC Home Service. Mansell had noticed how audiences of several million dropped off rapidly after the ten-minute news bulletin at 1pm, which at that time was followed by entertainment programmes.

In an attempt to keep listeners tuned in, Mansell asked the team that produced and presented the Home Service's midday magazine programme, *This Time of Day*, to come up with an extended lunchtime news programme. To gether, *This Time of Day's* editor Andrew Boyle and the programme's main presenter William Hardcastle came up with *The World at One*.

Three weeks after launch, Ian Smith declared UDI in Rhodesia, providing the programme with a major breaking story and enabling it to put

itself firmly on the broadcast news map. Because the programme grew out of a soft-news, magazine show, it had a slightly different approach to news coverage from other BBC radio news programmes, such as the agenda-setting, anti-biting and forward-looking *Today*.

By concentrating on the morning's events, *The World at One* can consider the issues that have emerged and which are manifestly on our listeners' minds, even though they do not figure on the politician's agenda — the sort of thing a spin-doctor likes to tidy away under "any other business". I think of it as the solid substance of a meeting (the day's events) at which our listeners have every right to be represented.

The World at One had regularly reported on — and explained — public concern over five annual shipments before the television cameras rolled up. We picked up very quickly the popular sentiment in favour of Cornish fishermen during their controversy with the Spanish.

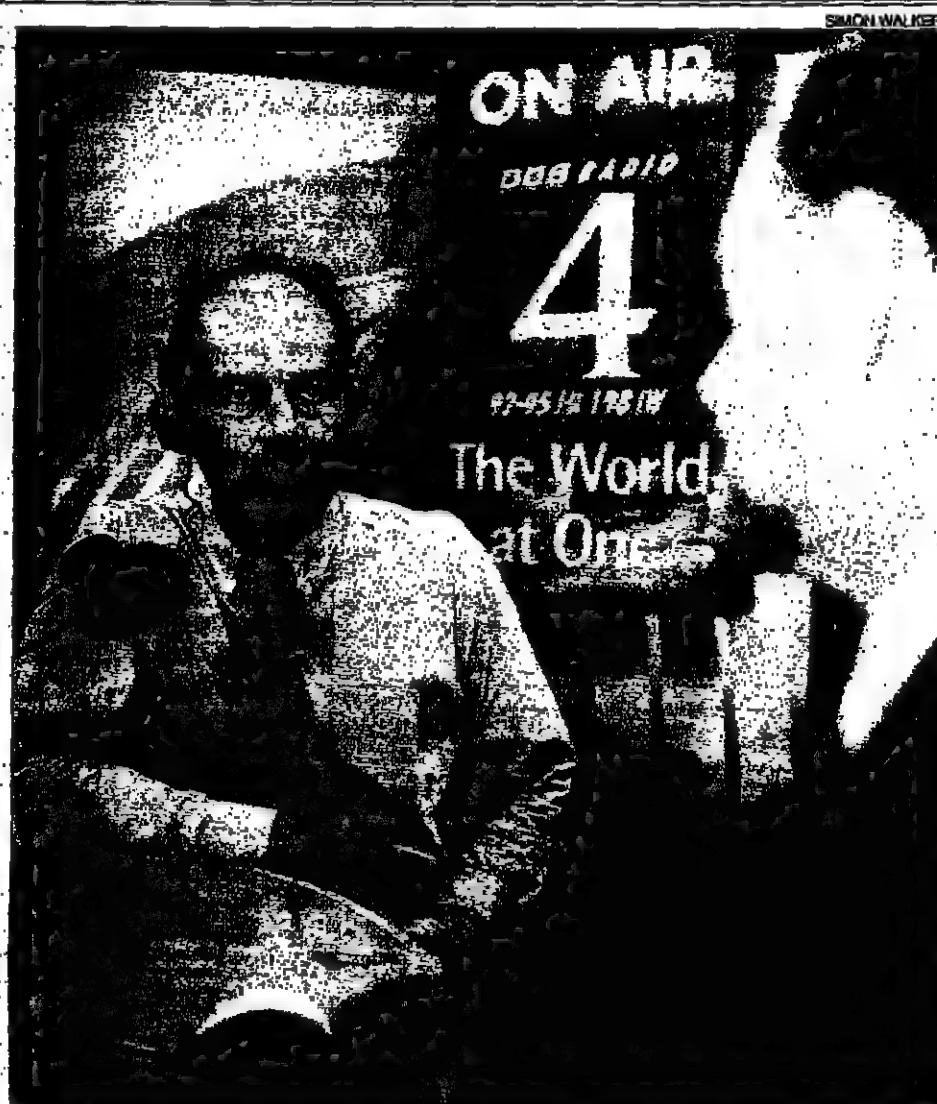
By 1965, Hardcastle, a former Editor of the *Daily Mail*, had helped to break the taboo that an interviewer's role was to act as a conduit for the views of the great and the good. In 1966, Sir Robin Day brought to the programme his own particular brand of heady disrespect. His language, rebuke to Roy Hattersley, "Clunk it Roy, some of these things are not for the faint of heart."

These days, the programme has reached the presenter's seat at a time of such political and presentational proficiency.

We are prepared to go further still to identify issues which fall outside the closely guarded areas in which politicians are trained to operate — areas in which every angle has been covered, every loophole filled, every risk eliminated.

On one memorable day earlier this year, we persuaded the Heritage Secretary, Virginia Bottomley — then in her capacity as Minister for the Family — to deal with a number of separate but related stories: a court decision to award custody of a child to a woman living in a lesbian relationship.

Drawing on these concrete cases, I gave Mrs Bottomley the opportunity to offer real insight into what lay behind her family policies. Her re-



Nick Clarke puts the questions to Shadow Foreign Affairs spokesman Robin Cook

plies, shorn of statistics, were heartfelt and impressive. I hope she was as pleased with the outcome as I was.

John Prescott recently took the same chance — agreeing to answer openly questions thrown up by our own research into Labour's membership drive — a subject decidedly not on his advisers' hit-list for the day.

This type of interview requires trust on both sides. It is, by definition, not a hectoring

exchange. (I don't like interruptions, either: I believe it is nearly always possible — pace Lady Thatcher — to find a pause, however microscopic, into which a question can be inserted.)

Not everyone will play the game. Some politicians, trained to perfection in the art of lip-sealing, manage not to offer anything that might be construed as a fact or a figure, and which might be used in evidence against them later.

(Names such as Gordon Brown and David Hunt, the former Tory Cabinet minister, spring to mind.) Perhaps it's a defence mechanism against the sheer numbers of interviews expected of a serious politician each week. Whatever the cause, the result is one of those tetchy exchanges, sometimes descending into inaudible babble.

And as my infuriated listener wondered, "What's the object in that?"

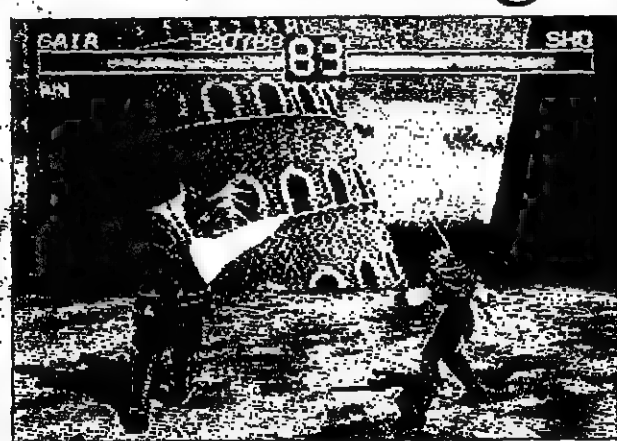
Alan Mitchell on the race to sell the next generation of computer games

Stuck in the image ghetto

THE MAN AT the end of the spot ads for Sony's new video game, PlayStation, finished each little "disturbance" with a grotesque shake of his wrist, like a slapstick comedian's take-off of Hitler. It has nothing to do with anything; its only purpose is to be "a little bit better".

Indeed, according to Paul Simon, managing director of the agency Simons Palmer, within a few months people will be walking around the country doing it. More to the point, people in bars and school playgrounds will talk about it. And that way, the £20 million advertising budget will be "leveraged" many times over by word of mouth.

Sony's anti-video game campaigner with a twitch will be on television screens throughout Europe from Friday, just a tiny part of a global race between Sega and Sony to sell the next generation of kit. Neither will make a penny from the machines they sell,



Sony's Playstation won't just be for violent games

but once it is installed they will be in a position to rake it in through licensing deals and software sales. The British market alone is worth more than £500 million.

Serious money, puerile marketing. Video-game marketers have learnt the snotty-faced adolescent anoraks who dominate this baffling market are

lured by relentless "street cred" imagery, silly gimmicks and publicity stunts.

Both sides privately admit they have dug themselves into a marketing hole. In the quest for ever more powerful games they have ended up producing high-tech machines with more computing power than a Pentium chip, yet they are

stuck in an image ghetto created for teenage addicts of blood-spattered games such as *Mortal Kombat*.

"Historically, video games have been targeted very specifically at 14-year-old boys. We have much loftier mass market ambitions for the product," says Philip Harrison, Sony's head of European communications. By Christmas, Sony will have launched a golf game aimed at the anoraks' fathers, and non-violent, non-threatening games aimed at their sisters will soon follow.

Breaking out of the video game's image ghetto is "a challenge for us all", agrees Noel Dardis, Sega's UK marketing director. Sega will reply to Sony in two weeks with a campaign for its Saturn product. A key aim: to win back the young men who bought their first video games five or ten years ago. "We want the video game to be seen as an alternative leisure pursuit you can legitimately talk about in the pub," Mr Dardis says.

our chart) bring an interactive element to viewing, allowing audiences to participate with what is happening on screen, through games printed in the paper. Sponsors are increasingly becoming marketers for the shows they back. Commercial Union, which supports *London's Burning* (top in our chart), promotes the programme at events and exhibitions in which it takes part.

PROGRAMME sponsorship now accounts for about 1 per cent of advertising revenue at ITV and roughly 8 per cent at BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster. Alexandra Freen writes. Sponsorship can bring more than just cash to broadcasters, however. Newspaper deals, such as the tie-ins between *Wheel of Fortune* and *Bruce's Price is Right* with *Today* and *The Sun* (numbers two and three in

Channelled gaze

John Diamond on the myth of digital television



Diamond: TV is for sharing

offers pitched at those who have missed the special offer sign-up deals. And yet still only a fifth of the population has cable or satellite; more to the point, most of that fifth watch the four terrestrial channels most.

Fair enough: satellite television is still, relatively speaking, in its infancy. But even so, to discuss the penetration of the new systems in terms of the technical ability of the engineers to deliver the programmes and the marketing departments to sell the services is to miss the point.

The point is not one about marketing or engineering but about a shared national culture. Television is not simply a discrete series of half-hourly and hourly events taking place in sitting rooms across the country: our viewing extends beyond the credits at the end of any given programme and

into the office, the pub and the school playground. In particular, it extends to the front pages of those tabloids which give to soap-opera stories the same serious attention they give to politicians and royalty.

The press stories and the cartoon discussions are part of the programmes we watch. *Monty Python's Flying Circus* wasn't relatively successful just because it was funny, but because the impetus built up by a million students doing silly walks made it part of a common culture — a common culture that includes catch-phrases, soap-opera strands, arguments about why Inspector Morse never gets the woman.

It is a culture that cannot work properly when diluted. The playground cults that are built around *Neighbours* cannot be built around a dozen different soaps running in competition; a score of rival quiz-show catch-phrases cannot enter the public consciousness simultaneously. No tabloid will bother manufacturing a story around a television hero watched by a twentieth or a hundredth part of the public.

We are herd animals: we gather around common points of recognition. It is the reason the thousands of political opinions around the country are distilled into the manifestos of three parties, the reason that bad league teams get better games than good non-league teams.

I may be wrong. In ten years the audience may be split between hundreds of stations. But my guess is that those television barons preparing to commit billions to digital television should remember that the conversational gambit which starts, "Did you see X last night?" usually expects "yes" as an answer.



2 for 1 cinema

More people are going to the cinema than ever before and *The Times*, in association with United Cinemas International (UCI), is offering you the chance to see some of the best films around such as *Forger* Paris starring Billy Crystal and Debra Winger (above) by taking advantage of our exclusive two for the price of one ticket offer.

All you have to do is complete the coupon which appeared in Monday's *Times* and attach three of the five tokens we are publishing this week. You will receive a second ticket when you purchase a full price ticket and present the coupon and tokens at one of the UCI cinemas listed below the ticket offer.

On Friday, October 6, cinema-goers will be able to enjoy the London premiere of *Poohonias* which is being beamed via satellite to the cinemas marked with an asterisk. Before the film they will also see a 20-minute floorshow featuring some of Disney's best known characters.

UCI operates a 24-hour credit card booking service for making seat reservations 0990 888990 although this does not apply to our exclusive *Times* offer.

THE 28 UCI CINEMAS TAKING PART

The Empire, Leicester Square, London, The Plaza, Oxford Street, London, *Edinburgh, Clydebank, East Kilbride, *Gateshead, *Preston, Warrington, *Hull, *Sheffield, *Telford, *Derby, Tamworth, *Dudley, Solihull, *Swansea, Milton Keynes, Hatfield, Lee Valley, High Wycombe, Bracknell, Bayswater, Sutton, *West Thurrock, *Poole, Portsmouth, Cooch and Tallaght.

THE TIMES
UCI
CINEMAS
TOKEN 3

Sponsors now market the shows they back

Programme	Date	Time	Channel	Producer	Sponsor	Genre	Avg (M)
1 London's Burning	Sun 17	21.05	ITV	LWT	Commercial Union	Drama Series	10.0
2 Wheel of Fortune	Wed 18	19.30	ITV	Booth	Commercial Union	Game Show	8.2
3 Bruce's Price is Right	Mon 11	20.00	ITV	Yorsham/Talbot/Premantle/Mark Goodson	The Sun	Game Show	7.9
4 The European Launch	Wed 19	19.25	ITV	Grand Slam Sports/Central	BSkyB	Sport	7.8
5 Fanc' Trains Through (Premiere)	Mon 11	20.50	ITV	20th Century Fox/Peter V Miller/Sandell	Det. Club	Doc	7.5
6 Winner	Sat 18	20.55	ITV	International Weather Productions	PowerGen	News	7.0
7 Rite of the Roof	Sat 18	20.15	ITV	Yorsham Television/Action The	Express Newspapers	Game Show	6.8
8 Rite of the Roof	Sat 18	17.25	ITV	Tower Television Production Co	Week Stock Wages	Quizzes Series	4.7
9 Rite of the Roof	Wed 19	22.48	ITV	Grand Slam Sports/Central/BSN	Ford/Continental	Sport	2.0
10 The Chess Show	Sat 18	11.35	ITV	Video Works	Text	Music	1.6

BSN/Central/Booth & Associates 01623-322123. Copyrights unauthorized reproduction, if complete network, transmissions reserved.

NEWS

Jury clears O.J. Simpson of murder

■ O.J. Simpson returned a free man to his home in Los Angeles after being cleared of killing his former wife and her friend in a stunning end to a sensational trial that has transfixed America for nearly year.

Millions of television viewers had earlier seen the former football star's face break into a huge triumphant grin as the court clerk read the jury's not-guilty verdicts, reached after less than five hours' deliberation on Monday. Pages 1, 2, 3

Blair's plea for a reborn Britain

■ Tony Blair announced his ambition to take Labour to power for a generation as he appealed to the patriotism of ordinary voters to help him turn Britain into a nation reborn. In a highly-acclaimed speech to the party conference the Labour leader set out his plans to transform the country. Pages 1, 6, 7

West trial opens

Rosemary West came face-to-face with the jury who will decide whether she murdered ten young women, among them her own daughter. Pages 1, 4

Mother accused

A woman murdered one of her daughters and severely harmed two others during eight years of abuse which social services and the police failed to prevent, a court was told. Page 5

Pathway clash

A coroner called for separate paths for skaters in parks and speed limits on cyclists after an inquest into the death of a cyclist in Hyde Park. Page 5

Overzealous charities

Competition from the National Lottery was blamed for "overzealous" and misleading advertising by charities that are struggling to attract donations. Page 9

Householders' rights

Senior police officers should use common sense when deciding whether to charge people who use force to defend their homes and families against criminals, Michael Howard said. Page 10

Railway criticised

Managers on the East Coast main railway line have been criticised for imposing a £10 minimum charge for tickets bought by credit card over the telephone. Page 10

Villagers reject £500,000 quarry bid

■ Two villages in Somerset have rejected offers of about £250,000 each to withdraw their opposition to a quarry extension that would obliterate an ancient country lane. The villagers are backed by Bath, ten miles to the north, which fears the limestone diggings could reduce the flow and temperature of hot springs that feed the city's Roman baths. Page 5

Ski development

One of Britain's most colourful entrepreneurs has bought the Cairngorm ski resort of Aviemore for £7.5 million. Desmond Bloom, 49, who was once bodyguard to Screaming Lord Sutch, is planning a multimillion-pound redevelopment. Page 11

Horden farewell

Friends of Sir Michael Horden gave him a high tribute at his memorial service: he would rather have been out fishing than hearing what they were saying about him. Page 11

Berlin upheaval

Berlin, five years after unification, is in a state of upheaval. There is the perpetual thud-thud of pneumatic drills. Soon there will be no more fashionable office site than on the former Death Strip. Page 12

Norwegian plea

Norway is seeking an alliance with Britain to stop Brussels taking over the Western European Union. Page 12

Bosnia eyewitness

A former Green Jackets officer was with advancing Bosnian forces when they were routed by a surprise Serb counterattack near the village of Vrh Polje. Page 13

Car bomb attack

President Gligorov of Macedonia survived a car bomb attack that killed his driver. Page 13



Cherie Blair, Lady Wilson and Pauline Prescott applaud Tony Blair before his speech to the Labour Party conference. Pages 1, 6, 7

BUSINESS

Accountancy: Partners in KPMG have voted to turn the firm's audit practice into a limited company in an effort to ring-fence partners from legal action. Page 25

Economy: Mortgage figures provided the first sign that the housing market may be picking up at last. Page 25

Canary Wharf: The 12 banks that own Canary Wharf have recovered 95p in the pound of their debts in a £600 million deal to sell the docklands development to a syndicate that includes Paul Reichmann, its original developer. Page 25

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index rose 4 to 3524.2. Sterling was unchanged at 85.2 after a fall from \$1.585 to \$1.5805 but a rise from DM2.2696 to DM2.2743. Page 28

SPORT

Football: By her own calculations, Karen Brady is the most hated figure at Birmingham City, a scheming Lady Macbeth and, at times, something of a headmistress. Page 46

Rugby union: Administrators count the cost to their financial resources as the game accepts the mantle of professionalism leading to the next World Cup. Page 46

Rugby league: The flamboyant Western Samoans, in Britain for the Halifax World Cup, get stuck on the M6 and arrive late for the welcome party. Page 42

Racing: Sheikh Mohammed, who has more thoroughbreds than any other owner in the world, dismissed Henry Cecil as one of his leading trainers. Pages 43, 48

Back in the black: For his new drama series, television playwright Alan Bleasdale, author of *Boys from the Blackstuff*, has turned his attention to the dysfunctional modern family. Page 32

Funny business: The veteran comedian Charlie Drake stole the show at the first night of the new Ray Cooney farce, *Funny Money*. Page 33

Top of the world: After selling 55 million albums, Mariah Carey can look back on her 20-plus waitressing jobs with a certain amount of wry amusement. Page 34

A Freudian fairy-tale: David Pountney's classic Freudian interpretation of Dostoevsky's *Rusalka* has been revived by English National Opera. Page 32

IN THE TIMES

■ FILMS
Geoff Brown sees Sandra Bullock get lost in cyberspace when she surfs *The Net*

■ BOOKS
As the Net Book Agreement ends, a 12-page supplement looks at new book bargains

Giles Coren: The problems of interviewing Umberto Eco, one of the cleverest men in the world, whose book *The Island of the Day Before* is just out. Page 15

Going to the dogs: The story of the actress Jill Bennett's will has sent shivers down the spine of lawyers who draw wills up. Page 15

Winning winter wardrobe: Iain R. Webb shows British fashion at its best as the contenders get set for our fashion awards. Page 14

Responding to criticism: Nick Clarke explains the objectives of interviews on Radio 4's *The World at One*, which has been aiming at the heart of the news since 1965. Page 23

THE PAPERS

Our government ought to be outraged enough by the arrival of Middle Eastern terrorism in the land of the free to take some serious steps against its international exporters and supporters. Page 19

Ontario conservatives openly acknowledge the lessons they drew from Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher. Let's hope U.S. conservatives notice the political courage of their neighbour to the north. Page 17

Preview: Alastair Stewart presents more drivers from hell in *Police, Camera, Action!* (ITV, 8pm) Review: Lynne Truss discovers that crime may be all down to the cortex. Page 47

O.J. walks

Months of agonised analysis and media introspection will doubtless follow Mr Simpson's acquittal: but all that really matters is that his wife's murderer is still on the loose. Page 17

New Labour pulpit

The British will no longer take moral leadership from the Conservatives. The Tories' only hope must be that the British will take it from no one. Page 17

Alliance française

The vociferous opposition to the French tests is fed by an opposition to nuclear deterrence itself. That is why Britain is right not to criticise France. Page 17

SIMON JENKINS

Always Mr Blair is Lord Cardigan, drilling his troops on his lawn, showing off their magnificent costumes, their horses and their discipline. But we cannot tell how they will ride when they sense fear from the Treasury guns. Page 16

PETER RIDDELL

Tony Blair's first words were, appropriately, a tribute to Mary Wilson. His subsequent speech had many echoes of Harold Wilson's "white heat of the technological revolution" address. Page 7

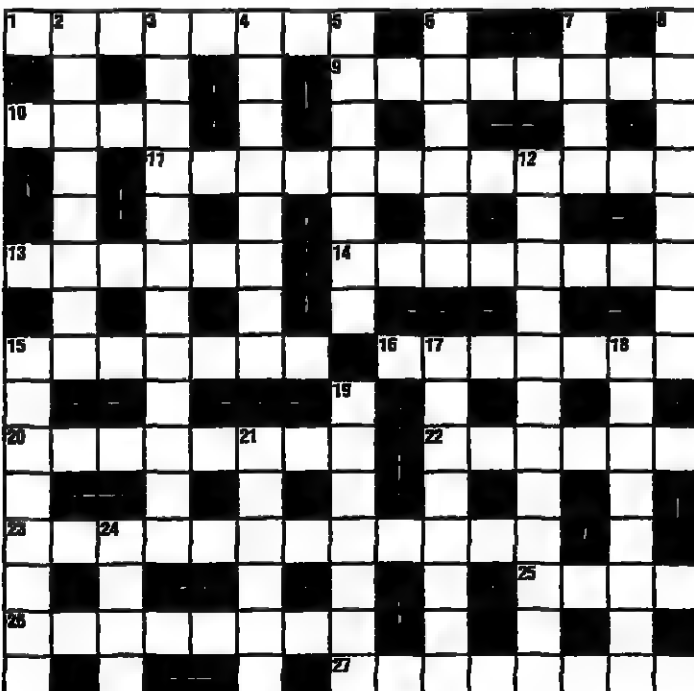
GILES WHITTELL

Long before the sudden verdict, given by jurors intoxicated by the prospect of freedom after nine months as *de facto* prisoners, the "trial of the century" had brought shame upon California's legal profession, and on much else in its criminal justice system. Page 16

Lynette Roberts, Welsh poet; Mollie Harris, actress and writer; His Honour Christopher Camille, a circuit formerly a county court judge. 1966-82. Page 19

Nato's priorities in Eastern Europe: reform of degree classification; the Royal Naval College; Hong Kong passports. Page 17

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,977



ACROSS

- 1 You can get bogged down in this pile of paper about meeting (8)
- 9 More imposing venue for the Masters, by the sound of it (8)
- 10 Guy in residence (4)
- 11 Could an estate, short of oil initially, produce full power? (5,3,4)
- 13 Piece, a musical composition, featuring one note (6)
- 14 Verbally caned without delay (5,3)
- 15 Append finis to a list of omissions (7)
- 16 Badger has two bases (7)
- 20 One pet about to become quiet (8)
- 22 Buffet about to stop (3,3)
- 23 Get in a mess - I do, in solving mathematical problem (4,8)

Solution to Puzzle No 19,976

MATCHET SALIENT
A H A O U A P A V O
T H R O W P A P E R B A C K
R O K I P P S E
I O N I S E A L S A B I A N
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R A D I O L A M P O N E R
C L A E U E
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L O U D M O U T H B R A C E
I R I N I E G N
F L E E C E D C U R R E N T

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code.

Region	Forecast
Greater London	701
East Surrey	702
North Hants & Dor	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wiltshire, Dorset & Somerset	705
Bedfordshire & Essex	706
North Bedfordshire	707
West Midlands & Shropshire	708
Shropshire, Hereford & Worcester	709
East Midlands	710
Lincoln & Humberside	711
Derby & Leicestershire	712
North East England	713
North West England	714
Yorkshire & Lancashire	715
North East Scotland	716
Central Scotland	717
South Scotland	718
Edinburgh & Fife	719
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AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code.

Region	Code
Greater London	701
East Surrey	702
North Hants & Dor	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wiltshire, Dorset & Somerset	705
Bedfordshire & Essex	706
North Bedfordshire	707
West Midlands & Shropshire	708
Shropshire, Hereford & Worcester	709
East Midlands	710
Lincoln & Humberside	711
Derby & Leicestershire	712
North East England	713
North West England	714
Yorkshire & Lancashire	715
North East Scotland	716
Central Scotland	717
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North West Scotland	800

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday's highest day temp: Guernsey Channel Is. 20C (68F); lowest day temp: S. Scotland, 13C (55F); highest rainfall: E. Wales, 15.4mm; highest sunshine: T. Hants, 7 hr.

FORECAST

■ General: England and Wales will be cloudy with outbreaks of rain which will clear quickly from Cornwall and Wales. Scotland and Northern Ireland will both see plenty of showers, as well as some sun, after the rain clears from northwest Scotland. It will be breezy everywhere, with gales in exposed places.

■ London, SE England, E Anglia, Channel Isles: cloudy with outbreaks of rain, clearing to showers during the afternoon. Wind south to southwest, strong to near gale. Feeling cool. Max 17C (63F).

■ Central S England, E Midlands, E England, W Midlands, SW England, NW England, Lake District, Central N, NE England: cloudy with rain, clearing to sunny spells and showers during the morning. Wind moderate to fresh, south to south-west. Feeling cool. Max 17C (63F).

■ S Wales, N Wales, Isle of Man, N

Ireland: sunny spells and showers, some heavy in the northwest. Wind southwest, strong to near gale. Feeling cool. Max 15C (59F).

■ Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll, NW Scotland: cloudy, rain clearing quickly by midday followed by showers, heavy at times in the west. Wind moderate to fresh, south to southwest. Feeling cool. Max 15C (59F).

■ Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney: rain spreading from the south during the morning, clearing during the afternoon. Wind moderate to fresh southeasterly. Feeling cool. Max 15C (59F).

■ Shetland: cloudy with outbreaks of light rain, becoming heavier and more persistent. Wind moderate to fresh southeasterly. Max 12C (54F).

■ Outlook: sunshine and showers, rain spreading east on Friday.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm; b=bright; c=cloud; d=dry; ds=duet storm; du=du; f=fair; fbg=fg; g=gale; h=halt; r=rain; sh=shower; sh=sh; s=sleet; s=snow; s=sun; t=trander									
	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun	
	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	
	C	F	C	F	C	F	C	F	
Aberdeen	4.8	0.03	1	1	London	2.1	0.06	16	sh
Anglesey	0.26	0.12	15	39	Lowestoft	1.5	0.1	17	sh
Aspinx	0.5	0.45	11	39	Manchester	1.5	0.1	16	sh
Ashington	0.4	0.34	15	39	Marblehead	1.5	0.1	17	sh
Belfast	5.9	0.11	18	61	Minstead	1.6	0.17	18	sh
Birmingham	2.2	0.02	18	64	Monkscombe	0.2	0.21	15	sh
Blyth	4	0.09	17	63	Northfleet	1.5	0.08	17	sh
Bournemouth	31	1	19	60	Newquay	1.4	0.13	17	sh
Boston	1.6	0.02	18	64	Northwich	1.5	0.1	17	sh
Buxton	1.4	0.02	18	64	Nottingham	1.5	0.1	17	sh
Cardiff	1.2	0.13	17	63	Oxford	0.0	0.07	18	sh
Cardiff	1.2	0.13	17	63	Penzance	0.7	0.17	18	sh
Chesham	0.1	0.42	18	61	Plymouth	1.5	0.1	17	sh
Cheyny Bay	0.1	0.42	18	61	Plymouth	1.5	0.1	17	sh
Cromer	4.3	0.1	18	64	Pole	1.5	0.01	18	sh
Dorchester	4.3	0.1	18	64	Pole	1.5	0.01	18	sh
Edinburgh	1.5	0.19	17	63	Rose-o-rye	2.6	0.06	18	sh
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Mariah Carey breaks another record

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5,000 years of African art goes on show

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Lindsay keeps the peace at World Cup launch

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 4 1995

KPMG partners embrace plc status to avoid liability

By JON ASHWORTH

PARTNERS in KPMG have voted overwhelmingly to turn the firm's audit practice into a limited company, in a move that has profound implications for the wider UK accounting profession. KPMG Audit plc will take over the auditing of some 400 listed clients and 300 regulated clients. Its annual turnover will be about £100 million.

The move is designed to ring-fence individual partners from the threat of punitive legal action.

Partners — who will become known as audit directors — will no longer be personally liable, though the firm as a whole can still be sued.

Colin Sharman, UK senior partner, said the vote was a response to the massive rise in litigation against large accountancy firms. He added: "Firms often pick up the full cost of a company collapse despite being only partially responsible, and when the auditors themselves have been the subject of fraud and deceit. It is clear from the size of some of the largest claims that if one were to

succeed, it would wipe out a firm." KPMG Audit will take on only the largest — and hence potentially most dangerous — clients, leaving the auditing of about 1,500 smaller firms to the partnership. Mr Sharman will head a ten-strong board with Gerry Acher, who runs KPMG's audit arm. The company will have about 300 audit directors and will sub-contract staff from the firm as needed.

KPMG will publish full financial results for the firm as a whole. That will provide an intriguing insight

into salaries and profitability. Mr Sharman said: "Clients have a right to know the financial position of one of their key suppliers. We have nothing to hide, and we will hide nothing." Results for the year to September 30 will be published in January next year.

The move has the support of several notable audit clients. Lord Alexander of Weedon, chairman of NatWest, said: "A public company has the right to know the financial position of its bankers, and I see no reason why this should not be the

case for its auditors. Clearly, KPMG's decision to publish its full results will enable clients to evaluate their use of the firm based upon a full disclosure of its financial position." Lord Young of Graffham, head of Cable and Wireless, endorsed the decision.

Mr Sharman said that partial rather than total incorporation was right for KPMG "at this time", but would not rule out wider changes in the future. There are no plans to seek external financing for KPMG Audit, which will have an equity

base of £50 million. A stock market flotation is not envisaged. Independent auditors will be appointed in due course.

KPMG's rivals are divided about the merits of incorporation. Competitors, including Coopers & Lybrand and Price Waterhouse, are assessing the issue, which has tax and legal implications and raises concerns about the impact on the partnership ethos. Some question whether incorporation will work.

Pennington, page 27

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET

FT-SE 100	3524.2	(+4.0)
FT-SE All share	1741.28	(+2.39)
Nickel	18142.50	(+403.15)
Dow Jones	4736.70	(+24.58)
S&P Composite	580.18	(+1.58)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	105 1/8%	(105 1/8%)
Yield	8.45%	(8.47%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	8 1/4%	(8 1/4%)
Libor long	100%	(100%)
Libor future (Dec)	100%	(100%)

STERLING

New York	1.5810*	(1.5800)
London	1.5817	(1.5812)
DM	2.2753	(2.2735)
FF	7.8510	(7.8490)
SFR	1.8331	(1.8255)
Yen	160.59	(160.27)
\$ Index	85.2	(85.2)

DOLLAR

London	1.4413*	(1.4285)
DM	4.9709*	(4.9268)
SFR	1.1608*	(1.1513)
Yen	101.89*	(100.38)
\$ Index	83.1	(82.7)

NORTH SEA OIL

Brut 15-day (Dec)	\$18.00	(\$18.00)
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GOLD

London close	\$382.55	(\$382.85)
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* denotes midday trading price.

Canary banks recover debts

By PATRICIA TEHAN

THE 12 banks that own Canary Wharf have recovered 95p in the pound of their debts in a £600 million deal to sell the Docklands development to a syndicate that includes Paul Reichmann, its original developer.

The sale values the total bank involvement at close to £800 million, but the European Investment Bank, which is owed £165 million, is staying in and replacing old facilities with new ones that will take the total to about £180 million.

The new owners, American and Middle Eastern investors, calling themselves the International Property Corporation (IPC), will attempt to recover the investment with a flotation, probably in London. Other investors include Prince al-Waleed bin Talal, the Saudi Arabian investor; Larry Tisch, former head of CBS, the TV network; Edward Safra, a New York banker; and Michael Price, a US fund manager. They are using the promise of future riches to prevent the departure of key directors of Canary Wharf Ltd, the company that has been running the development, such as Sir Peter Levene, chairman and chief executive.

Sir Peter is the company's highest-paid director, receiving £536,316 in the year to October 31. He said last night that the new owners had asked him to stay on, adding: "I have no intention of leaving at the moment." He said the 300 staff and managers em-

ployed by Canary Wharf Ltd and its subsidiaries would be retained by the new owners. The banks will receive 100 per cent repayment of £65 million new debt they took on when they rescued the project. They will receive about 90p in the pound repayment of the old debt on the balance sheet before the collapse.

Last October Canary Wharf said its bank loans totalled £770 million, including old debt of £572 million. But as interest has accrued, that figure has increased. Lloyds Bank led the banking syndicate that took over the Canary Wharf development after it went into administration in 1992. The other leading banks were Barclays, Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, Chemical Bank, Citibank, Commerzbank, Credit Lyonnais, Credit Suisse, the European Investment Bank, HSBC, Merill Lynch, National Bank of Canada, and Royal Bank of Canada.

In addition to repaying the banks, the new owners will provide working capital and will meet obligations to pay £300 million towards the cost of extending the London Underground Jubilee Line, which is scheduled to open in March 1998.

There will be no benefit for the former creditors of the development. The 1,100 secured creditors received payments totalling £14.7 million, or 15p in the pound. In addition, 130 of them provided warranties for their work for a further 25p in the pound or £7 million.

IPC has 60 days in which to complete its due diligence and the banks hope the sale will be finalised two weeks later and completed before the end of the year.

Sir Peter said there was one million square feet of space to let before the company started to think about restarting building.

Pennington, page 27

Reichmann's return, page 29

City Diary, page 29



High expectations: the sale of Canary Wharf should enable the 12 banks to recoup 95p in the pound of their debt

Texans raise bid in battle for Norweb

By ERIC REGULY

A FULL-SCALE takeover war for Norweb broke out yesterday when the two Texas companies that launched a white knight bid for the electricity company last week, only to see it trumped by North West Water, came back with a stronger offer.

Texas Energy Partners, comprising Houston Industries Inc and Central & South West Corp, raised its bid from £10.50 to £10.85 a share, made up of 88p in cash and a special dividend of 200p. The 3.3 per cent increase values Norweb at £1.74 billion.

North West's last offer was 107p, comprised of 97p in cash and a 100p special dividend. Its shares and cash alternative, based on North West's closing price of 590p, is valued at £1.05. North West said that it "will make an appropriate response in due course", although a spokes-

man described the Texas bid "as a very weak response". Norweb, evidently expecting higher bids to come, said it would not recommend either bid.

Analysts expect North West to return with an improved bid because the Texans' new offer is not high enough to be a knock-out blow. A new bid, if launched, will probably come next week.

Tom Shockley, co-chairman of Texas Energy Partners and executive vice-president of Central & South West, said "it certainly wouldn't surprise us" if North West returned with a counter bid. He said Norweb remains the Texans' only target, but there is speculation that it is lining up other targets in case Norweb goes to North West.

Five regional electricity companies — East Midlands, London Electricity, Yorkshire,

Seaboard and Swalec — have yet to receive bids. East Midlands, whose shares rose 10p to 876p, is thought to be courting an offer. Shares of London Electricity, which rose 55p to 920p on Monday, fell 23p yesterday in the absence of a bid.

Meanwhile, continued its effort to convince institutional shareholders to reject ScottishPower's £1.1 billion bid, worth 990p a share. ScottishPower said it bought more Manweb shares yesterday, and now holds 21.3 per cent of the company, excluding the bid's 6 per cent acceptance.

National Power, which on Monday announced a £2.8 billion agreed bid for Southern Electricity, said it now owns 3.8 per cent of Southern's shares.

Tempus, page 28

Big Blue plum for Compass

THE world's largest business and industry food-service account was yesterday won by Compass Group after IBM awarded it a national contract to provide food and vending services in the US (Christine Buckley writes).

More than 100,000 employees at 29 sites will be catered for by Compass, the UK-based company, which is the world's largest food-service provider.

The contract, for five years, will generate more than \$250 million in revenue. A management team dedicated to the IBM contract, which has yet to be formally signed, is to be installed in the US. Mike Bailey, president of Compass's US subsidiary, said: "Our reputation as a global food-service company played a major role in securing this account."

The two companies have wide experience of working together, with joint contracts in 10 other countries, including IBM sites in the UK.

Housing market shows faint signs of life

Mortgage figures jump sharply

By JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

MORTGAGE figures yesterday provided the first sign that the housing market may be picking up at last.

There was a sharp jump in new mortgage commitments in August to the highest level since December. Commitments have proved to be a reliable indicator of housing market activity and prices and, unless August's leap in commitments turns out to be a temporary blip, the latest figures presage rising house prices by the end of this year.

The number of new commitments leapt to 79,000 from 71,000 in July, reversing a downward trend that has been in place

for months. Ian Shepherdson, UK economist with HSBC Markets, said that this was potentially the most significant piece of economic data for some time. He put the improvement down to the realisation during August that interest rates were not going to rise for the foreseeable future.

He noted that August's much healthier figures came before September's interest rate cuts by leading banks and building societies, which may help to bolster demand for mortgages into September.

It is, however, still premature to call an end to the housing market's woes. August's improvement came from a low level. Commitments were still down 2 per cent on the level seen in August last year.

However, a sense that potential

housebuyers may be becoming more confident appeared to be backed up by other figures showing that mortgage lending rose 0.3 per cent in August. The increase in July, secured on dwellings rose by up sharply from £911 million.

At the same time, consumer spending rose 0.5 per cent in August, the smallest monthly increase since July. Separate figures published by the Central Statistical Office showed that Britain's trade balance in July from £868 million rose to £868 million. Exports rose 0.5 per cent and imports increased 2 per cent

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500 jobs to be created at Rosyth

Lexmark International, of Kentucky, is to create 500 full-time jobs at a £26 million plant on former Ministry of Defence land at Rosyth, Fife.

The plant will assemble colour and monochrome cartridges for the company's ink-jet printers. The project was secured against competition from other European locations.

Loans lift

Intermediate Capital Group, the mezzanine finance provider, forwarded total loans of £47 million (£36 million) to nine companies in the six months to July 31. Pre-tax profit was £10.5 million (£9.7 million pro forma) and earnings 14.9p (13.8p). Interim dividend is 4.3p (3.75p), due October 17.

Brewer joins

Shepherd Neame, the brewer, is to join the new Ofex share market. The company reported pre-tax profits up to £5.5 million (£5.1 million) and earnings of 62.9p (60.2p). The interim is 20.5p (19p).

Fashion slip

Q&S Holdings, the discount fashion retailer, had a pre-tax loss of £743,000 in the half-year to July 28 (£2.11 million profit). Losses were 1.26p a share (3.43p earnings). The interim is held at 1.56p. The shares fell 9p to 78p.

Oil switch

Enterprise Oil has lost its second senior executive to Hardy Oil & Gas. John van der Welle, group treasurer, will be Hardy's finance director.

Exco buy

EXCO, the money broker, is buying the German money and fixed-income securities broking division of Trio Holdings, German Group, for £5.8 million.



Geoffrey Halstead, left, managing director of James Halstead, and Stephen Knight, finance director. The floor coverings company reported year-end pre-tax profits increased 4.3 per cent to £10.32 million

BA on standby as hopes grow for USAir takeover

By MARIANNE CURPHEY AND RICHARD THOMSON

BRITISH AIRWAYS is looking to increase its presence in the US after two leading carriers, United and American, expressed an interest in acquiring USAir, in which BA has a 25 per cent stake.

BA has been attempting to increase its options for code-sharing within the US and may decide to hold on to its stake in USAir in the hope of forming a partnership with USAir's new owner. Altern-

tively, it could sell its shares and forge a new deal with one of the American carriers. Yesterday's announcement sent BA shares up 20p to 472p.

USAir said that the discussions were still at a preliminary stage and could give no indication of whether it would continue to operate as an independent entity.

A takeover of USAir by either United or American would create the largest air

carrier group in the US and the most powerful internationally.

The stock market regarded a bid for USAir as a potentially profitable way for BA to extricate itself from the unprofitable investment it bought two years ago. USAir has lost \$3 billion over the last five years, forcing BA to write down its \$400m holding by about half last May.

USAir could fetch about \$7

billion from a merger. BA, meanwhile, said the talks had been undertaken with its knowledge and that they could include the acquisition of USAir by one or other of the two airlines.

It said in a statement: "We have frequently predicted further consolidation of the US airline industry. The US is an essential part of our global strategy and this development could provide an opportunity to develop that strategy further."

The initial approach to USAir was believed to have come from Gerald Greenwald, the new chairman of United Airlines. United, however, is owned by its employees, which might make negotiations unwieldy.

United confirmed it was evaluating USAir's business, but said it would take several weeks. AMR, which owns American, declined to comment.

Extreme rivalry between United and American would ensure any successful bidder would be made to pay a full price for USAir.

BA has said the operational benefits of its alliance with USAir, such as linking route networks, has been generating some £70 million a year in extra operating profits.

Alliance Resources sues former chief

By MARTIN BARKROW

ALLIANCE RESOURCES, the oil exploration company, has launched a High Court action against its former chief executive John O'Brien, claiming damages for fraudulent misrepresentation, fraud, deceit and breach of his service contract.

The action also seeks reimbursement of all sums taken in breach of duty or trust, together with interest and costs. Last month the company obtained an injunction freezing Mr O'Brien's assets.

The Serious Fraud Office is conducting its own investigation into alleged irregularities concerning Mr O'Brien's activities at Alliance.

The company claimed yesterday that Mr O'Brien had "concealed and misrepresented" the true status of a well in the Valentine field, south of New Orleans, described a year ago as "a significant gas discovery". The company said the well was never capable of producing commercially.

Alliance also alleges Mr O'Brien forged a letter purporting to grant an extension from the lessor of undeveloped acreage in the same field after the company failed to abide by a commitment to drill one well every 110 days. Mr O'Brien allegedly concealed a notice of forfeiture issued in March but not discovered by other directors until August.

ICS mis-selling move

THE Investors Compensation Scheme resumed its high court battle with Cheltenham & Gloucester over payments to elderly investors mis-sold home income plans. The scheme told Mr Justice Evans-Lombe it had asked 270 investors to "assign" their rights to ICS so it could pursue other parties to recoup compensation payments. In C&G's case this was for £6 million-worth of payments to investors who took out plans through Aylesbury Associates. C&G provided the mortgage funding but denies it was responsible for selling the plans.

Leyland plants reunited

THREE plants previously owned by British Leyland are to be reunited under a single management. Albion Automotive, the truck parts maker rescued from the collapsed Leyland DAF business, and which has plants in Glasgow and Lancashire, is to buy Farrington Components, once part of Leyland Bus, at Leyland, Lancashire, from Volvo. The deal will bring total employment within the Albion group to 1,160 and take annual sales to around £70 million. New contracts from Volvo will allow Albion to widen its product range.

Bloomsbury slides

BLOOMSBURY PUBLISHING, the book publisher, blamed a reported pre-tax loss of £391,000 for the six months to June 30 (£748,000 loss) on "seasonality" in the business. Nigel Newton, chairman, said despite tough trading conditions in the UK the gross profit margin was increased by 7.8 per cent to 41 per cent, and there were five bestsellers during the period, including Joanna Trollope's *The Best of Friends*. Turnover was £3.08 million (£3.13 million) and the loss per share was 4.55p (6.02p loss). The interim dividend is 0.66p (net) per share.

Silentnight setback

SILENTNIGHT HOLDINGS, the UK's largest manufacturer of beds, suffered a downturn in pre-tax profits to £3.7 million from £4.1 million in the six months to July 29 and warned investors that no improvement in consumer demand had emerged. The company, which also makes cabinet furniture, is maintaining the interim dividend at 2.75p a share after a decline in earnings to 5.22p from 5.84p. Bill Simpson, chief executive, said the disappointing result was influenced by increases in raw material costs. The shares fell 9p to 193p.

BT sets out accounts for Ofel

By ERIC REGULY

BT published its first set of segregated accounts yesterday in an effort to prove it is charging fair prices to rival operators to complete calls on its network.

Ofel, the telecommunications regulator, did not immediately dispute the figures but said the accounts still lacked sufficient detail. "We're naturally disappointed," an Ofel accountant said.

It has asked BT to provide a better breakdown on its so-

called interconnection charges and also wants the statements independently audited. The accounts were delivered unannounced because BT, which had never gone through such an exercise before, was pressed for time.

Ofel asked for segregated accounts to find out whether BT was unfairly cross-subsidising its businesses and to determine what competitors such as Mercury should pay BT in the year 1996/97.

Ofel said it expects the charges to decline next year. Mercury had no comment.

BT calculated that it cost £4.84 billion in the last financial year to operate its domestic telecoms network — £3.95 billion plus the 15 per cent return on capital mandated by Ofel. BT also said it lost £400 million providing access to its residential customers.

Contributions from competitors — access deficit charges — subsidise that loss.

Belling 'duped for £3.5m in loan fraud'

By ROBERT MILLER

BELLING, the company famed among generations of students for its Baby Belling cooker, was duped into handing over a £3.5 million fee from the firm's pension fund to a "trusted" solicitor in return for a £50 million loan.

Middlesex Guildhall Crown Court heard yesterday the cash-strapped company never saw the money and went into receivership in 1992. The £3.5 million had been paid to a separate client account by Charles Dickson, 52, a solicitor.

John Goldring QC, for the Serious Fraud Office, said: "He added that the Belling fee was sent abroad and was part of an international £12 million advanced-fee fraud. This involved offering a large loan in return for advance payments of one-year's interest."

Mr Deacon and co-defendant James Fuller, 36, have denied 11 charges of deception, conspiracy to defraud and theft between June 1990 and July 1992.

Mr Goldring said the defendants were "accomplished liars" who used bogus letters from the then US President, George Bush, and others. The case continues.

Bank	Share	Bank	Share
Australia N	2.10	2.03	
Austria N	16.50	16.50	
Belgium N	40.00	40.00	
Canada N	2.25	2.07	
Cyprus N	0.70	0.70	
Denmark N	9.40	8.80	
Finland N	7.20	8.70	
France N	8.50	7.70	
Germany N	2.40	2.20	
Greece N	385.00	380.00	
Hong Kong N	12.00	11.80	
Ireland N	1.00	0.80	
Italy N	5.1777	4.8777	
Japan N	173.50	167.50	
Malaysia N	0.50	0.44	
Netherlands N	2.80	2.40	
New Zealand N	10.00	9.77	
Portugal N	344.00	380.00	
Spain N	302.00	180.00	
Sweden N	11.70	10.60	
Switzerland N	1.00	0.80	
Turkey N	1.00	0.80	
USA N	1.00	1.00	

Notes for small shareholders: bank notes only are supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

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London	Florence	20.25	22.40	1234567
Florence	London	17.35	19.50	1234567

Activity: Amsterdam, Athens, Barcelona, Bologna, Catania, Cologne, Frankfurt, Geneva, Innsbruck, London, Lyons, Madrid, Milan, Naples, Nice, Oslo, Rome, Stockholm, Vienna, Zurich.

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Reichmann's limited role in rescue □ Bid deadline nears for RPR □ Accountants play safe

A Canary sang in Cabot Square

IF Paul Reichmann's financial collapse in 1992 only confirmed the old adage that pioneers are people with arrows in their backs, then he has made a remarkable recovery from his wounds. Most such failed entrepreneurs have to watch bitterly from the sidelines as their creations are steered to financial success by others. Mr Reichmann has emerged at the head of the rescue team.

That said, his as yet undisclosed involvement in the International Property Consortium is slight, backed by an equity stake of less than 5 per cent. The disintegration of Olympia & York, and the resulting foundering of the family fortunes, mean the Reichmanns no longer dine at the same table as the likes of Larry Tisch and Prince al-Waleed bin Talal.

The party line is that the involvement of Reichmann, the architect of Reichmann's Folly and intimately acquainted with every brick, tile and shingle, is crucial to the success of the rescue. As for tonics, not so. Reichmann initially approached the prince in the summer of 1994 suggesting a joint bid and was rebuffed. A year later the two were talking again. Reichmann was teamed up with old pals Tisch and Michael Price and all they needed was a supply of serious finance.

A Saudi prince is not born without means, but the prince's investment in Citibank in the early years of this decade provided him with a windfall that outstripped his early wealth. He has since gone on to rescue Euro Disneyland and see his investment in yet another putative white elephant virtually double, while he had the good sense to turn down Eurotunnel.

The prince is a man who has not yet put a foot wrong. His day-to-day involvement at Canary Wharf is likely to be as great as at Citibank and Euro Disneyland, i.e. nil. The likes of Tisch, Price and the New York moneyman Edward Saffra will be in the driving seat, with Sir Peter Levene as their London lieutenant if they will have him and terms can be agreed.

The banks have fully justified their collective decision to keep their nerve and reject some of the cheeky offers being made a couple of years back. Even the keenness of some of the British contingent today to hang on in there and wait for full restitution looks understandable, given the project's prospects a few years

down the line. The rescuers may have pledged to pay for some of the cost of extending the Jubilee Line out to Docklands, but that cost will repay itself in spades. The tube extension is the key to the development's future, linking the south London terminal of Waterloo and London Bridge to Canary Wharf and making the area accessible to a huge swathe of commuters in the south — and so to their employers.

Add this to a couple more years of recovery in the London office market, and it is clear that it will no longer be a Folly. But it will no longer be Paul Reichmann's, either.

Sweetening the pill at Fisons

IF AND when Rhône-Poulenc Rorer decides to up its offer for Fisons and clinch the deal, then the company's long-suffering shareholders should offer a toast of thanks to Stuart Wallis, the chief executive. His defence has been a classic case of winning the game on a handful of deuces.

Every 10p a share from RPR



would put an extra £70 million into the pockets of those shareholders, without much solid justification for the rise from Fisons' defence strategy. The company's woes, which pre-date the 1992 departure of its main architect, John Kerridge, were well on the way to being corrected by Mr Wallis, but there has been little in that strategy to suggest Fisons has a glittering future on its own. He has boosted profits by cutting research and development costs, the ultimate short-term fix for a pharmaceutical company, while pinning his hopes on joint ventures that will take years to pull in the earnings.

Two thirds of the laboratory supplies business has been sold,

but the scientific instruments disposal has hit a predictable delay. While Fisons has been talking to possible white knights, none has yet emerged. Any serious rival bidder would in any case wait for the best shot from RPR.

The latter, 68 per cent owned by the French Rhône-Poulenc, has until Friday to make up its mind, so a raised bid would have to come today or tomorrow. French businesses have a rotten record on contested takeover bids in Britain, although they are rather better at acquisition by stealth. Indications from the RPR camp are that the French, with board seats but no overall control, and the American management are split on what to do next, with the Americans in favour of a knock-out blow.

Fisons' institutional shareholders, 20 of whom hold 70 per cent of the company, would at one stage probably have taken the 240p cash already on offer, however grudgingly, given the tatty state of the stock market. But they have by now been well primed for an increase. A price of 260p would leave the matter in

the balance. Too much more, and the limited acceptances so far would turn into an embarrassing stampede.

KPMG's limited liability

VAST professional firms such as KPMG, which has about 600 partners, have for years been run much more like a conventional hierarchical company than the theoretical partnership of equals. The benefits of partnership are now largely tax-related rather than operational.

In audit and due diligence work, however, the lack of limited liability protection has become too much of a threat to some junior partners. They could be wiped out — or so their building societies might fear — by Anglo-Saxon big ticket lawsuits. In event of loss, these are aimed at deep-pocket accountants, rather than the prime corporate culprits, to take advantage of the strange legal principle of joint and several liability.

Accountants have gradually realised that no government is

likely to make the parliamentary effort to give legal relief to a profession that does not naturally attract public compassion. So KPMG has done its own thing, using a facility already granted to help firms expand more easily in a dynamic modern way. In the four fifths of the business still relatively immune from the terror of the lawsuit, KPMG will stick with the undynamic old tax benefits of partnership.

Others will doubtless follow suit, starting a debate on whether a capital of £50 million is really enough. Public accountability will also be improved when big accountants start publishing their own accounts, a step that they, like other private businesses exposing themselves to hostile sunlight, will almost certainly live to regret.

Soft landings

BAT is amassing an increasingly rum selection of non-executives. Lord Cairns, out of the debris of the House of Warburg, was named chairman-designate in the summer. Now arriving are Rosalind Gilmore, decidedly downwardly mobile after quitting the regulatory overhaul of Lloyd's, and Rupert Pennant-Rea, in only his second City job since being forced out of the Bank of England.

Slump forces Ibstock to make lay-offs

BRICK workers are to be laid off and production scaled down at Ibstock. The UK's second-largest brickmaker, after Hanson, faces a slump in demand after it bought Tarmac's clay brick and paving stone business.

The lay-offs are scheduled to begin at Christmas and could last for a month at some, or all, of Ibstock's 22 sites. Ian Maclellan, managing director, would not rule out permanent job losses, but said he hoped the round of lay-offs would be temporary. He said he hoped full production would resume some time in January or February.

The move has been triggered by a slump in second-hand demand with like-for-like volume deliveries down 10 to 15 per cent over the three months since the end of June. The decline began in May when like-for-like sales retreated 7 per cent, Mr Maclellan said.

The company blamed the weak state of the housing market, although it saw some cause for optimism in the steady demand in the US.

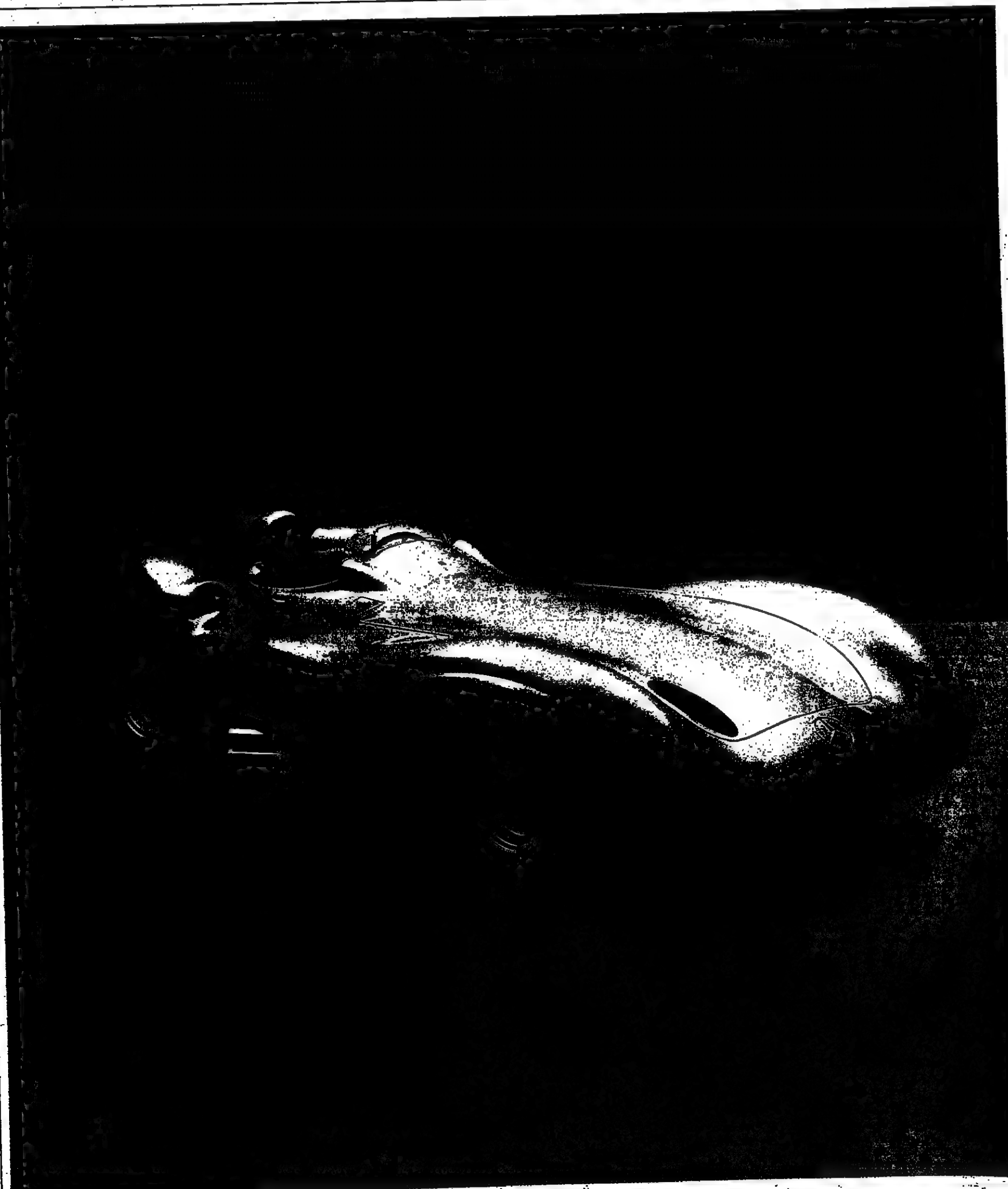
Some of the lay-offs will also be necessitated by cost-cutting

operations in the merging of Ibstock's production with the Tarmac plants, which have so far led to 40 lost jobs. The company has said it hopes to achieve overhead savings of £2.5 million after the £70 million purchase of the Tarmac operation, which has taken its share of the UK brick business to 20 per cent.

The lay-offs were revealed after Ibstock announced a threefold increase in interim pre-tax profits after new techniques and the fruits of capital investments began to feed through. Profits for the six months to June 30 jumped from £4.4 million to £14 million. The Tarmac division, purchased at the beginning of June, has yet to contribute to the figures.

Ibstock, which runs a large pulp operation, also saw its operating profits of forest products increase fourfold to £6.14 million on sales up 59 per cent. No progress has been made on the sale of its 56 per cent stake in Cairns, the pulp manufacturer. The interim, payable December 1, was raised 50 per cent to 0.75p.

Tempus, page 28



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The new Mercedes E-class.

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Price	Change	%	Price	Change	%
100	1.5	1.5	100	1.5	1.5
101	1.5	1.5	101	1.5	1.5
102	1.5	1.5	102	1.5	1.5
103	1.5	1.5	103	1.5	1.5
104	1.5	1.5	104	1.5	1.5
105	1.5	1.5	105	1.5	1.5
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196	1.5	1.5	196	1.5	1.5
197	1.5	1.5	197	1.5	1.5
198	1.5	1.5	198	1.5	1.5
199	1.5	1.5	199	1.5	1.5
200	1.5	1.5	200	1.5	1.5

MICHAEL CLARK

Alarm bells for C&W as break-up talk grows

Profits rise for Istock managing director Ian Maclellan

Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct 240

years that third quarter earnings may not meet expectations. The Dow Jones industrial average at midday was down 24.56 points at 4,726.80.

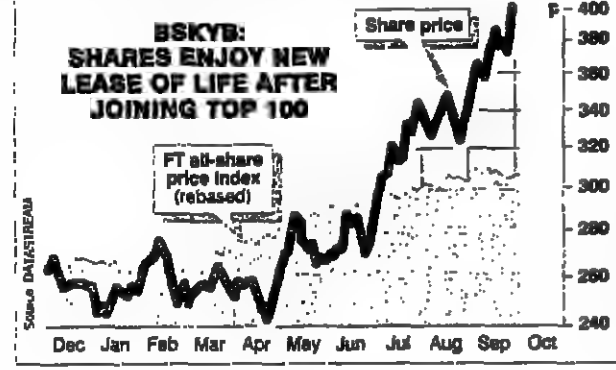
Closing Prices Page 33
FINANCIAL FUTURES

Sell, sell, sell

waiting to see whether Ibstock would increase capacity. Instead, winter shutdowns on half of Ibstock's

ing boosted profits before transfers by 42 per cent. Manchester United provides food for thought to those who

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED



LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURE:

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sell	Vol
FT-SE 100						
Previous open interest: 44625	Dec 05 Mar 06	2943.9	3089.9	2941.0	2945.0	71.0
FT-SE 250						
Previous open interest: 100	Dec 05 Mar 06				3779.0	
Three Month Sterling						
Previous open interest: 150	Dec 05 Mar 06	93.49 93.48	93.47 93.48	93.42 93.50	93.47 93.50	90.0 90.0
Three Month Eurodollar						
Previous open interest: 100	Dec 05 Mar 06	92.43 92.43	92.54 92.54	92.43 92.43	92.53 92.53	118.0 118.0
Three Month Eurodollar						
Previous open interest: 110	Dec 05 Mar 06				94.21 94.3	
Three Month Eurodollar						
Previous open interest: 2250	Dec 05 Mar 06	94.04 94.06	94.04 94.10	94.02 94.08	94.03 94.03	68.0 68.0
Long Gilt						
Previous open interest: 9600	Dec 05 Mar 06	105.00 105.00	104.90 105.00	104.84 104.90	104.85 104.92	4.0 4.0
Japanese Gov't Bond						
	Dec 05 Mar 06	121.95 121.95	122.05 122.01	121.80 121.91	121.82 121.97	1.0 1.0
German Gov Bd Bund						
Previous open interest: 11500	Dec 05 Mar 06	95.81 95.82	95.71 95.80	95.68 95.78	95.68 95.82	78.0 78.0
Three Month Franc						
Previous open interest: 100	Dec 05 Mar 06	94.43 94.43	94.39 94.43	94.43 94.43	94.40 94.40	4.0 4.0
Euro Swiss ECX						
Previous open interest: 4100	Dec 05 Mar 06	97.93 97.92	97.84 97.97	97.82 97.93	97.82 97.97	1.0 1.0
Italian Gov't Bond						
Previous open interest: 45000	Dec 05 Mar 06	101.10 101.10	101.97 101.97	100.25 100.25	101.28 101.28	454.0 454.0

[illegible]

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dish)	0.70	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60
Sterling Money Rates	0.70	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60
Interbank	0.70	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60
Overnight repmt 7.00%					
Local Authority Depo	0.70	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60
Sterling CDs	0.70	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60
Dollar T/De	0.70	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60
Buying Society CDs	0.70	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60

EUROPEAN CURRENCY RATES (%)

	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Current	0.70	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60
Dollar	0.70	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60
Deutsche Mark	0.70	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60
French Franc	0.70	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60
Swiss Franc	0.70	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60
Yen	0.70	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

	Settle	Close	1 month	3 month
Bullion: Open \$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00
Low \$10.95	\$10.95	\$10.95	\$10.95	\$10.95
High \$11.05	\$11.05	\$11.05	\$11.05	\$11.05
Close \$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00
Settle \$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00
1 month \$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00
3 month \$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00
6 month \$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00
12 month \$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00
Settle \$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00
1 month \$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00
3 month \$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00
6 month \$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00
12 month \$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00
Settle \$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00
1 month \$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00
3 month \$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00
6 month \$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00
12 month \$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00
Settle \$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00
1 month \$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00
3 month \$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00
6 month \$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00
12 month \$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00
Settle \$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00
1 month \$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00
3 month \$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00
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12 month \$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00
Settle \$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00

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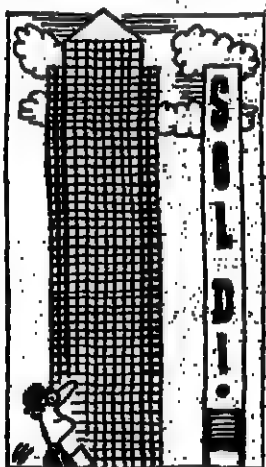
THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Canary rushed into flight

AN AIR of urgency hung over the legal firm of Allen & Overy on Monday night. Time-pressed lawyers pored over the Canary Wharf/Reichmann documents anxiously racing the clock. Had their legal personalisation of the Canary Wharf deal by midnight, then negotiations that have long been tortuous could have been set back by at least a week. Because Commerzbank, as just one German lender, was anxious to head home in time to join in yesterday's tag der Deutschen einheit celebrations marking the fifth year of German unity. And the orthodox Reichmanns were anxious for the deal to be signed before Yom Kippur today. They finally managed to put pen to paper at 11pm.

For partners?

A PERFORMANCE of Puccini's *Didò and Aeneas*, featuring Welsh National Opera soloists and the KPMG chorus of auditors, tax experts and secretaries, which was arranged for the City's Stations Hall as part of the firm's national opera sponsorship, has been hijacked to celebrate KPMG's decision to convert auditing partners into a limited company. In the original, Didò kills herself after being desert by her partner. I trust everybody has a jolly nice evening.



Farm fright

FANS of *The Archers* should not join Radio 4's switchboard, even though Touche Ross, the accountancy, has announced that receivers are offering for sale as a going concern Brookfield Farms Limited. That's a dealer in frozen foods near Lancaster — not Paul Archer's farm in Ambridge.

Number one

I ADMIRE the spirit of Waldemar Schmidt, who has taken over from Paul Andressen as group president of ISS, the world's biggest contract cleaners and official char to the Bank of England. Andressen's royal blue company Jaguar sported the number plate ISS 1. Schmidt, also driving a Jaguar, has adopted the number plate PBT 9. Saying it with numbers that stands for profit-before-tax 9 per cent.

Divided house

FISONS thinks Rhône-Poulenc Rorer, whose hostile £1.7 billion bid for Fisons expires on Friday, should read the Bible more closely, particularly St Mark 3:25. "If a house be divided against itself..." Fisons is referring to the fact that Mary Tanner, the Lehman Brothers banker who is advising RPR, appears to have a different view about Fisons's strategy than her husband, Fred Frank, who is Lehman's head of investment banking for the pharmaceuticals sector. In a recent article, he said a drugs company that sheds its research arm, as Fisons has, may actually be doing the right thing. Tanner's team, meanwhile, has argued that Fisons has a questionable future without research capability and therefore should team up with RPR.

COLIN CAMPBELL



Softer approach: Jacques Santer, the EC President, in a speech to the TUC, spells out an explicit new deal for Britain over social issues

Industry keeps watch on the smoke signals from Brussels

The political temperature has cooled but change is still afoot, says Philip Bassett

Back in the days when Michaels Portillo and Howard Rantall against Europe's job policies, each meeting of the EU's Social Affairs Council was a pitched battle: doughty Britain up against Johnny Foreigner. Council meetings these days, including tomorrow's in Brussels, are quieter affairs — yet oddly enough, their impact on UK business is, if anything, greater than in the rant and rave days.

The softer line over Europe, which British business welcomes, is exemplified in the replacement of Jacques Delors as European Commission President by Jacques Santer. For M. Delors, social action was one of the central components of his vision of an integrated Europe. But in his speech to the TUC conference a fortnight ago, M. Santer set out an explicit new deal for Britain over social issues: drop the Maastricht treaty social chapter opt-out at next year's intergovernmental conference, and we will legislate less, and police compliance more — two long-running key demands from the UK.

Whether that, and further pressure and concessions to come on the opt-out, will be enough for Britain will be a matter for high post-Maastricht politics next year. At that level, UK business is sweating with how far it favours full economic and monetary union; but in the meantime, British industry has to get on with what is continuing to come out of Brussels on jobs, employment and social policy.

Tomorrow's Social Affairs Council is the first since Spain took over the presidency of the EU. Spain's own announced focus for its six-month term is on economic revival across Europe, with social policy — and especially job creation — as a key aspect of that.

Its social priorities include putting into effect the Commission's third social action programme, including legislative measures on pension equality, professional qualifications and migrant workers — though overall, the shape of the third programme is less legislatively

prescriptive than the social action plans pursued by M. Delors.

UK Conservatives, and especially the Euro-sceptics, will find all this a bit rich. For them, to be guided on employment issues by Spain, which has the highest unemployment rate in the EU at 22 per cent, is laughable. Euro-sceptics like to point out that while Spain is advocating further social regulation across Europe, in its own country it is deregulating as fast as it can, to try to bring its own unemployment down — with some effect, since Spain's unemployment rate has dropped two full percentage points over the past year.

Employment across Europe provides the continuing context for the EU's social drive. EU unemployment is steady, at a seasonally adjusted rate of 10.7 per cent, according to EU Eurostat figures — though this is down a half point on the level a year ago. Unemployment in particular is falling not just in Spain, but in Italy, France, and of course in the UK.

But the Commission's target, detailed in M. Delors's competitiveness white paper, of halving current European unemployment by the year 2000 still looks tough to reach. Padraig Flynn, the EU Social Affairs Commissioner, says the job market across Europe is likely to remain stagnant for the next two years, with unemployment set to fall by about 1 per cent.

In the UK, such estimates simply spur on the Government to strengthen its policy of labour market deregulation, which it claims has led directly to Britain's low labour costs. The most recently available figures for labour costs, from 1994, show western Germany heading the list, with average hourly costs in manufacturing of £19.80. Switzerland, Belgium and Nor-

way follow. At £9.93, Britain is both well below the EU average of £12.65, and beaten only by Spain (£9.11), Greece (£5.48) and Portugal (£4.13).

UK ministers will be disappointed, though hardly surprised, that tomorrow's meeting of the Social Affairs Council — where Britain will be represented by Eric Forth, Minister of State at the Department for Education and Employment — will address few issues which they judge will have much impact on Europe's high labour costs.

Among the items the council is expected to consider are issues of women. Spain is pushing hard on this, and wants approval for a draft resolution to combat the stereotyping of women in the media. Other items include:

- Racism. Though the EU's remit does not extend to cover this area, the council will examine it after an initiative by France and Germany.
- Older people. Germany is blocking a draft resolution on older people, arguing this too is not within the remit of the Council of Ministers.
- Equal opportunities. As well as Mr Flynn giving a report on the controversial UN conference on women in Peking, Spain will propose implementing without delay the EU's fourth equal opportunity programme, which will run for four years from 1996 at double the funding levels of previous programmes. It will require equality issues to be taken fully into account in all member state policy decisions.
- Social exclusion. Both the UK and Germany are opposing the EU's draft programme of measures to help the so-called underclass.

Business will be largely unimpressed, at least immediately, by such moves — though the equal opportunities programme will probably be judged to have considerable cost implications. But that isn't to say social Europe is now a quiet backwater for British business. A raft of legislation is still moving through the Brussels machinery in ways that will affect the way British industry operates.

In spite of the UK social chapter opt-out, many UK companies are already introducing European-style works councils in advance of the trigger point for doing so across the other 14 EU member states next September.

The adoption of works councils by companies such as Coats Viyella and United Biscuits in spite of the political opt-out is an illustration of the gap between the ideology of politics and the practicalities of business — industry has to get on with things even if the politicians do not want it to.

Industry is also listening to the debate on social policies that the UK Government opposes and need not adopt because of the social chapter opt-out, but which, like works councils, may affect British businesses anyway. Among them are the directive on equal treatment of part-time workers; a draft directive to give three months' leave entitlement to both parents after the birth or adoption of a child; and a draft directive to put the onus on employers to prove their innocence when sex or race discrimination is alleged.

Other governments oppose some of the measures too. Even so, this programme shows that in spite of its quieter presence, social Europe is still a key factor that business needs to take into account. Sound and fury against Europe will be revisited next week in Blackpool, but as sweetness and light in favour of Europe is washing around Brighton this week. But as the moves by UK companies to establish works councils show, though the political temperature over social Europe may have cooled, the practical problems mean that British industry will still be carefully scanning the smoke signals coming out of Brussels tomorrow.



ANTHONY HARRIS

The unbearable lightness of forecasting

Is it déjà vu all over again? Before we get down to cases, two familiar thoughts. "Those who cannot learn from the past are destined to repeat it," and: "History never quite repeats itself." Clichés, but only because there is much truth in them; and if there wasn't, economic gurus would have to shut up shop. They are basic equipment: an example from the past to make a forecast plausible, a description of how it will be different this time makes it look subtle. The trick, of course, is to pick the right bit of the past.

Which brings us to the Stephens-Warburton affair. Philip Stephens is a house guru of the *Financial Times*, once economic, more recently political, but a bit of both. Peter Warburton is Robert Fleming's gloomy chief economist. Recently Stephens warned the Chancellor not to repeat the history of Nigel Lawson in 1986, and over-stimulate the economy as it is due to recover. Now Warburton has issued his own warning: don't believe it. Stephens's choice of 1986 is, as he rather huffily puts it, "a most inappropriate analogy." Try 1990.

The FT view does look a bit pink-tinted. "Both government and business have rebuilt their balance sheets," Stephens wrote. Business, yes; but government, as borrowing rises? And what about the overstretched personal sector? "Growth in the rest of the world is picking up." Growth forecasts, yes; but the real thing? "The feel-good factor will re-emerge." But feeling bad is not just a British disease; it embraces nearly the whole of the developed world. The forecast could still prove good; it matches the consensus. But as current description, it looks wishful.

The 1990 parallel gives Warburton's blue-tinted view. Now as then, policy is constrained by thoughts of European convergence, and is deflationary. Trends in retail sales, stockbuilding and real rates are horribly like those five and a half years ago. And so is the forecasting consensus. Only Warburton, I think,

could find an optimistic consensus cause for gloom; but that consensus is based, now as then, on an unexplained consumer spending surge, which looks more wishful than scientific.

Indeed, Warburton's figures are not as alarming as his warning against wishful thinking; for it seems to be endemic at the moment. Only wishful forecasts, for example, can make any sense of German insistence that EMU will still start on schedule, and on Bundesbank terms. The same goes for President Chirac's promises on job creation and — as Anatole Kaletsky argued yesterday — for Gordon Brown's. And professional economists are not immune: his circulars in my own postbag are full of fantasy. Two examples: "The British balance of payments is sound"; "Investment will rise strongly in 1996". And the same goes for Professor Robin Marris's discovery that green growth will solve all our problems. Just like that.

All this suggests that reality is becoming unbearable; whereas the truth is that it is simply uncomfortable. Is EMU a solution? Politically, it looks more like a problem. Does devaluation work better? Only conditionally. The current weakness of UK exports is against all forecasts, and the US is also finding export-led growth unexpectedly faltering. And does growth abolish poverty? The US may have only 5 per cent unemployment, but it also keeps 2 per cent of the male working population in jail.

For the truth about export-led growth, try Brian Reading: he argues the developed world is becoming rather dependent on demand from the less developed. Professor Patrick Minford explains that third world investment demand is draining both capital and jobs from the developed world, explaining both social stress and high real rates. These men are not consensus thinkers. But realistic analysis looks a better guide than wishfully bright, or even wishfully gloomy, forecasts.

Jon Ashworth on Canary Wharf's odd couple

Return of Reichmann puts the shoe on the other foot

Folklore has it that every time Paul Reichmann does a deal, he goes out and buys himself a pair of shoes. Observers quip that his wardrobe must be well and truly down at heel after the tribulations of the past few years.

Mr Reichmann, 65, has stamped his mark on some of the world's most ambitious property developments, but little is known about the man who is back on the scene at Canary Wharf. Those who do know him say he has three overriding characteristics. He does an intense amount of homework and knows his subject backwards. He is gentle in manner, softly spoken, understated and very polite. He is also extremely patient — unusually so, given the usual pace of business dealings. He seems to put time on his side, and will not be rushed into a decision.

In public, he is withdrawn and tends to hang back. He is almost invariably clad in his "uniform" — grey suit and white shirt, dark blue tie, and skull cap. He has a scraggy beard, and dark hair, and does not appear to have aged at all in spite of ill-fated forays into the UK and Mexico. He has a long-legged, purposeful stride — almost a lunge — and is known for his engaging smile. As one observer puts it: "He has a really human, genuine smile. His eyes sparkle."

It is ironic that his key partner in the Canary Wharf rescue should be Prince al-Waleed bin Talal, the billionaire Saudi investor who effectively rescued Euro Disney last year. They are different in every respect, down to their speech and mannerisms.



Patient Paul Reichmann is back in control, as part of a consortium, at Canary Wharf

The 39-year-old prince is known for his snap decisions, and staccato speech. A business associate says: "He is the most decisive man I have ever met. He asks the questions that matter, then makes his mind up."

Prince al-Waleed spends a month each summer in Cannes on his luxury yacht, and it was here, in the summer of 1994, that Mr Reichmann first broached the idea of joining forces for a Canary Wharf bid. It was felt at the time that they would be better off pursuing separate bids, but subsequently threw in their lot at a meeting in London this summer.

Whatever their cultural differences, they are united by a common commercial purpose.

The prince's reaction to the deal was great, now on to the next one. Mr Reichmann is clearly deeply satisfied to have achieved his goal, but is not one to dance on the tables. A commentator says: "The prince is a very cool investor, and this is just a deal done. Mr Reichmann is very satisfied. His feeling is that this is a property that has been undervalued, and he wants to show that his vision was correct."

Stephen Adamson, of Ernst & Young, who met Mr Reichmann several times as lead administrator of Canary Wharf, said: "He is a very impressive man. I've seen a lot of people who have lost fortunes, and thought he conducted himself with quite remarkable dignity. I think

he's one of the very few failed property developers who still demands and deserves respect."

The Reichmann wealth — the family was once estimated to be the world's seventh richest — was built mainly on property deals in the 1970s and 1980s, principally in Toronto and New York. In Toronto, the Reichmanns were feted among the Jewish community as a surrogate royal family, highly respected for their discreet philanthropy. Mr Reichmann, said to be the most important businessman to emerge from Canada since the Second World War, was the most conspicuous figure in a family-run property dynasty that became a legend for its secrecy.

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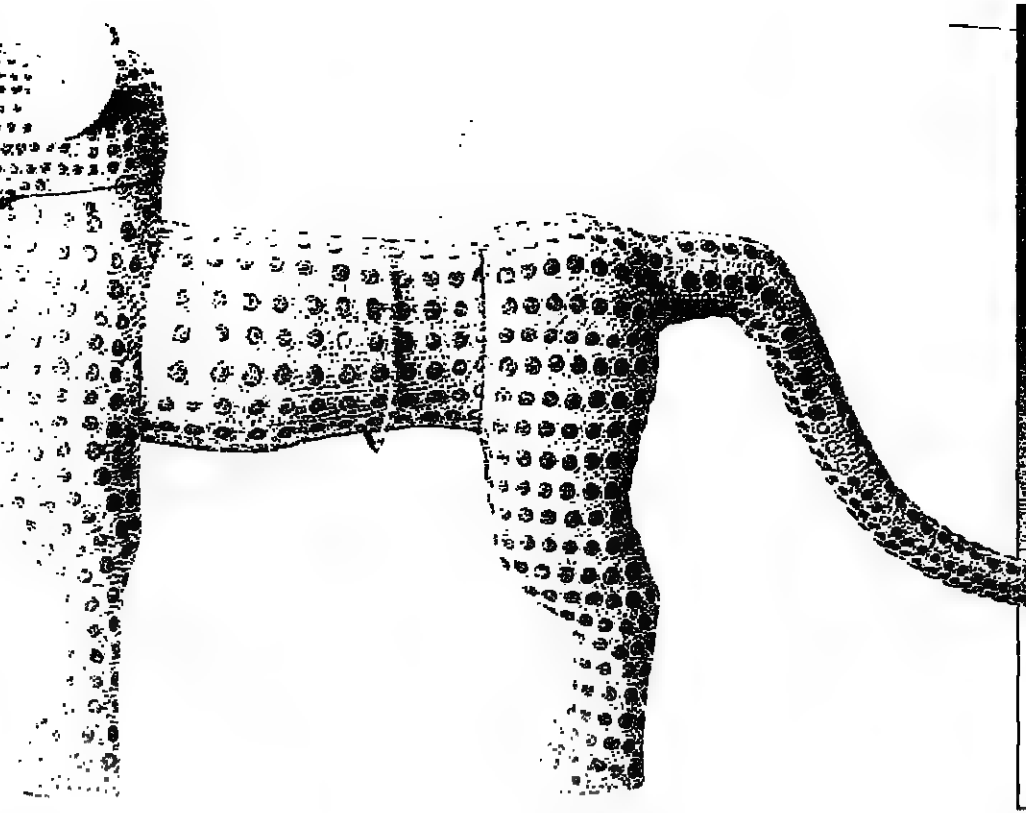
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Wood carving by the Mumuye people of Nigeria



Left to right: a terracotta figure from Segou, Mali; a leopard made from ivory and bullet shells from Benin, 19th century, lent by the Queen; a terracotta memorial head from Ghana, 17th-19th century

Voyages into the soul of Africa

John Russell Taylor introduces a major exhibition of 50 centuries of art

Faced with the great panorama of African art over 50 centuries, the European cannot but reel back in wonder and delight, but also in puzzlement.

It has become fashionable to say that what the European thinks or feels about other cultures is of no account, and probably represents cultural imperialism or cultural appropriation. Nevertheless, an exhibition designed by Europeans for a European audience involves the question of European responses.

The problem is that although there is such a thing as European response, there is no such thing as a single, coherent African response with which to compare it. It would be difficult enough to generalise about a presentation devoted entirely to art in Africa in the 20th century, but when the field of inquiry is broadened to include artworks made as long ago as 3500 BC, generalisation becomes impossible.

To take Egypt, for instance: it is problematic enough to see any real continuity between early dynastic art, Islamic art, and timeless peasant art in the one country. To try to line up Egyptian art with the art of the Congo, or Nigeria, or even

Ethiopia, is an even more thankless task.

It is no wonder that the European tends to see African art in terms of previous contacts, particularly the contacts of 20th-century European and American artists with what was at the beginning of the century unselfconsciously called "primitive art".

In *Africa: The Art of a Continent* (the exhibition at the Royal Academy starts today and runs until January 21), one sometimes feels like the man who said that *Hamlet* was fine, except that there were too many quotations. Almost wherever one looks, there is something strangely familiar. A mask that is surely by Modigliani, a wooden totem pole which must have been carved by Brancusi, a fetish out of a Picasso painting.

That is fair enough as a first venture into strange territory. The only way to the unfamiliar is often through the familiar. If the artists we find ourselves recalling were, in their time, practising a species of cultural appropriation, they were also being colonised by Africa.

In many vital senses, the 20th

century has been the century of Africa, the century when Africa emerged from being the Dark Continent and inserted its imaginative sway on other, more malleable societies.

Then there is the almost unthinkable diversity of the continent to contend with. The Royal Academy show is arranged chronologically and geographically. Visitors start with the earliest works, which happen to be Egyptian, and work their way through the centuries back to Egypt again, though this time late Islamic Egypt.

At the same time they are making a geographical tour of Africa, moving round Africa clockwise as they move round the galleries anti-clockwise. For the purposes of the exhibition, African art is divided into seven sections.

After Egypt, for instance, the second section deals with eastern Africa, which is here regarded as stretching from Ethiopia in the north, down through Tanzania and Zimbabwe to the northernmost point of South Africa, including Madagascar along the way. Surely nobody would claim much consistency there. Though Sir David Attenborough insists that there is a profoundly felt aesthetic underlying and linking together of everything in the exhibition, one of the purposes of the organisers seems to be to amaze us with the sheer diversity of style and inspiration.

It soon becomes clear that art outside Africa are selective. It would be fair to say that when people talk about African art, they are usually thinking of Congolese art. It was sculptures from the Congo which first found their way to Parisian curiosity shops and caught the attention of Picasso, Modigliani, Derain and others.

From the point of view of their makers, these wooden masks were of primarily ritual significance, to do with crime and retribution. For the Paris-based artists who first became aware of them, they were divorced from their context and made their effect by their sophisticated formal qualities, their often exquisite workmanship. If they were found frightening and mysterious, that was part of their original purpose.

This is very different from the arts in North Africa. Islamic cultures are, after all, inimical to the representation of the human being, which elsewhere in Africa is the most important single area of subject matter. It is significant that when European artists such as Matisse and Klee were much affected by visits to North Africa, it was the scenes in general which captivated them, so architecture probably had most effect. The manuscripts and glassware are extraordinary in themselves, but have little to do with the rest of Africa. Like dynastic Egyptian art, they have their own code of conventions which relate in no vital way to, say, the tribes of the Congo.

The differences are dictated not only by such matters as the forms of religion and social organisation predominating; there are also practical considerations such as the kinds of materials available.

Ceramics are more or less prominent depending on the availability of the right sorts of clay. Wood carving is much more extensive and important in forested areas, and the difference between hard wood and soft wood carving is also of great significance.

The very sophisticated bronze-casting of Nigerian sculpture in general and the portrait heads of Benin in particular are exceptional in the corpus of African art, and the delicately realistic style of the Benin heads is so exceptional in a continent where aesthetic realism was rarely an issue that it is easy to understand wild theories of some occult link between medieval Nigeria and ancient Greece.

As Europe becomes, in most practical ways, more and more unified, it also retains its linguistic and cultural diversity. Not only that, but the individual life of many minority cultures seems to be enhanced by being a small unit in a larger whole. African political unity is obviously even further away than European, but the continent is still seen as a single unit in which the component parts have most in common with one another.

Here cultural diversity survives and flourishes, and if some of that richness and complexity conveys itself to the outside world, then Britain's African autumn will have more than made its point.

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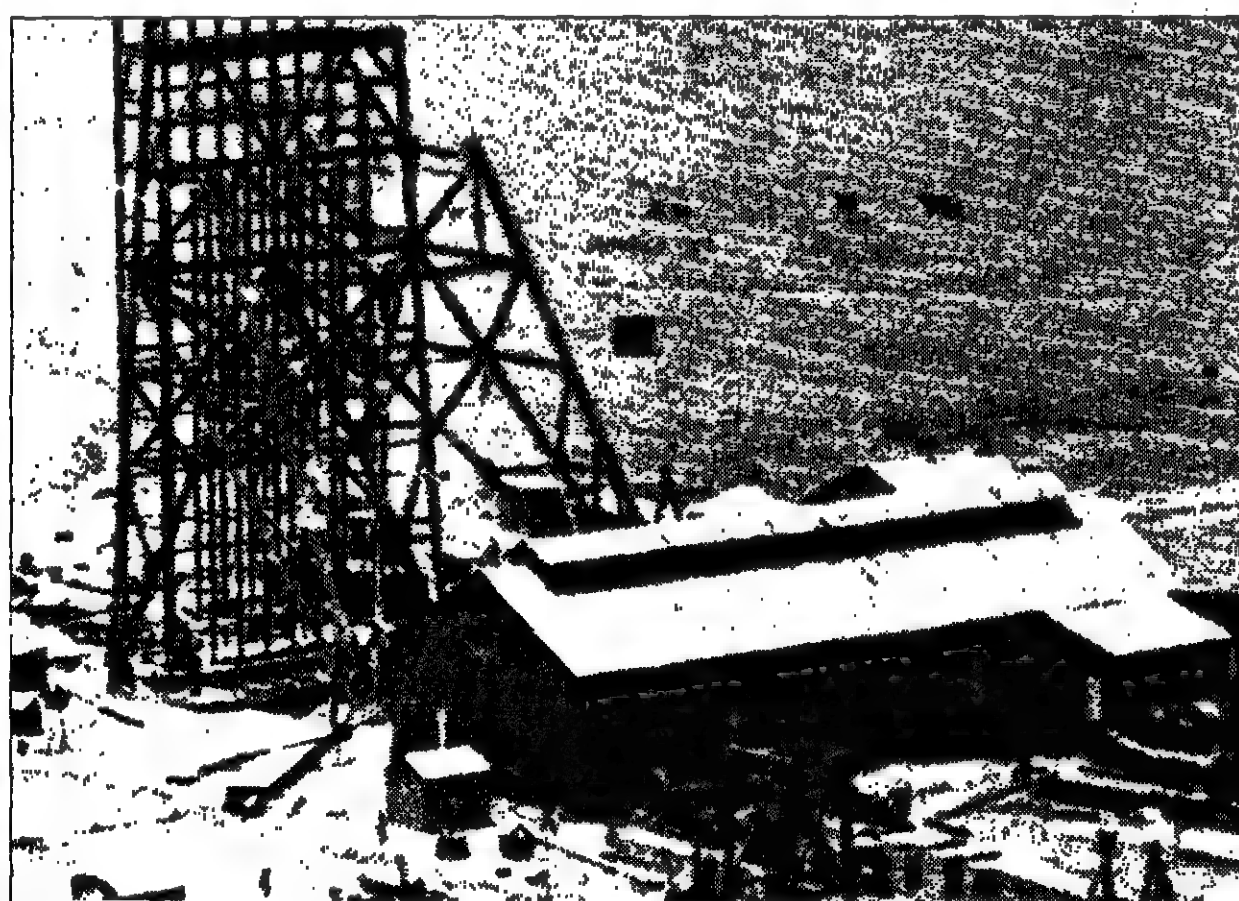
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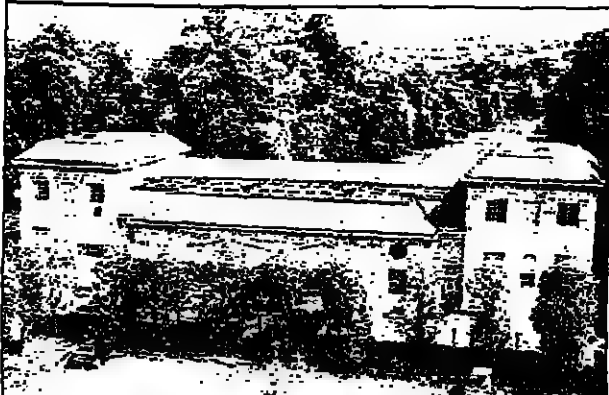
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New offices: the stables at Cornbury House, Oxfordshire

IN THE MARKET

A FINE 17th-century stable block adjoining Cornbury House, near Charlbury, Oxfordshire, set amid a 400-acre deer park, is being restored for letting as office accommodation next spring. The Grade II* listed building, adjacent to the Grade I listed Cornbury House, has 10,450 sq ft of space on three floors and will offer parking within the courtyard between the main house and stable block.

Robin Cayzer, who runs the family's 6,000-acre Cornbury Park estate, says: "The philosophy behind this development is the restoration of an historic building and the regeneration of jobs in the countryside."

The joint agents are Clegg Kennedy Drew, of Charlbury, and James Offen & Partners, of Oxford.

MERSEYSIDE Development Corporation has announced the go-ahead for the Twelve Quays Science Park on the Wirral waterfront after approval of grant aid of £5.58 million towards the total project cost of £15.6 million.

The park, covering 500,000 sq ft, has three elements: a pharmaceutical research and trials clinic supported by IND Research, an American pharmaceutical company, established in partnership with Liverpool's John Moores University; a "centre of excellence" providing bespoke computer training courses set up in conjunction with Phonelink, a Wirral-based company; and a business park offering a base for technology-oriented companies. It is hoped to start work before next year.

Office recovery recedes yet again

Cautious optimism among companies that the property market is steadily on the way to recovery has weakened in recent months amid projections of a slowdown in economic growth this year, a survey by Jones Lang Wootton reports.

In its biannual property confidence review for London and the South East, the property advisers say that business confidence has passed its peak and fallen back to 1993 levels. Only 52 per cent of companies surveyed are more optimistic about their short-term business prospects, compared with 59 per cent six months ago and more than 60 per cent in 1994.

A number of other indicators show that the market's recovery is going to be a long process. According to the results of the survey of 384 companies, regional employment is set to decline. The number of office staff has fallen by 0.1 per cent since July 1994 and a further 0.9 per cent decline is expected over the coming year.

Though the ratio of demand for space compared with the vacancy of space has improved slightly over the last six months, there is still a substantial imbalance. Total take-up of space in the past six months was 1.98 million sq ft

Regional job cuts now loom, Christopher Warman says

while vacancies amounted to 3.68 million sq ft. For the next two years, companies forecast their office space needs at 3.68 million sq ft while the forecast for vacancy is 5.57 million sq ft. Office demand in the future will be largely driven by the needs of the banking and securities sector and other services, while UK banks and manufacturing companies are responsible for most of the anticipated disposals of space.

Jones Lang Wootton notes that the West End office market has been sluggish over the first half of 1995 and that the City market has been considerably less active than in the last half of 1994. By contrast some of the important sub-market areas in Greater London, such as Canary Wharf and Hammersmith, have been able to attract large-scale, high-profile users.

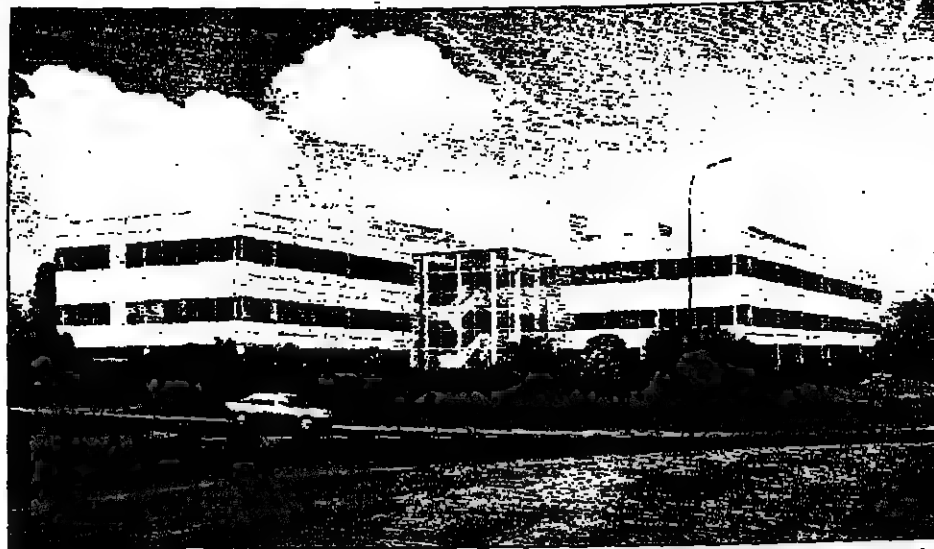
The general picture is of low overall market turnover, both in space taken and vacated; a situation likely to continue for the foreseeable future.

Chris Jolliffe, research partner at Jones Lang Wootton, commented that the environment was one of substantial and continuing downsizing in office space requirements. "The return to market vitality and the redress of the imbalances that have recently affected all office market areas will depend critically therefore on new firm formation, the demands of smaller companies and large-scale inward investment to London and the South East region."

He suggested cautiously that there was growing evidence that such performance across the region could provide a boost to the office market in general, and particularly to key sub-markets.

For example, the recent success of the City and Canary Wharf in capturing large-scale demands from international banking operations, and global corporations' commitment to the Greater London and immediately surrounding metropolitan markets suggest that the potent combination of inherent location attractiveness allied to recently much-improved economic development activity across the region, can yield a significant volume and quality of office demand.

Further hopeful news comes from Richard Ellis, whose



Hope among the caution: a 52,854 sq ft speculative headquarters building, designed by Nicholas Hare, at the King's Hill business park near Maidstone, in Kent, reflects the confidence of the developer, Rouse Kent Ltd, that the M20 corridor in the South East of England will prove to be both an attractive and strategic business location

provisional figures for central London rents show that top rents in the City have risen from £32.50 to £35 per sq ft in the third quarter of 1995. It is only the second time that City top rents have increased since the market bottomed out in June 1993. This is partly because of increasing demand, reflecting London's importance as a financial centre.

The most notable deal in the quarter was Deutsche Morgan Grenfell's pre-let of 300,000 sq ft at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, with the rent rumoured to be above £40 per sq ft. There have also now been four or five deals at or above £35 to justify this level.

In the West End, the market continues its slow year, with top rents remaining unchanged at £42.50 a sq ft.

John Slade, chief executive of Richard Ellis's City division, said that although the overall market in central London was extremely tight, the dearth of quality space in the City, coupled with a healthy demand for space from the financial sector, was driving the City into a period of rental growth "which has long been heralded but is slow in arriving".

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Your Lloyd's experience will allow true PA involvement as you support two Main Board Directors. As Office Manager you organise everything from maintenance to seminars and reconcile bank accounts. This is a six month maternity contract starting mid-November but comes full company benefits. Skills: 80/50. Please telephone 0171 628 9529.

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTSDANSK SEKRETER
£22,000

A fantastic opportunity to use both your Danish and your creativity with this successful financial firm. Your excellent skills and eye for detail will be utilised to create attractive presentations. In return the company offers excellent rewards. 50wpm and a graphics package essential. Please telephone 0171 628 9529.

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTSAB FAB
£18,500

The Human Resources team of this well known publishing house are looking for a lively, flexible secretary/administrator to help lighten their load. You should have a proven ability to work on your own initiative and experience of, or an interest in, working within an H.R. department. 55 wpm typing essential. Please telephone 0171 495 2321.

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTSCOMPLY WITH ME!
£19K + PKG

As PA to the Head of Legal in this well established City firm, you will be involved in a varied and interesting 50/50 admin/secretarial role. Experience or an interest in corporate legal affairs will secure this position as you organise this busy executive's day. Please telephone 0171 628 9529.

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTSBLUE CHIP
£19,000

A pro-active PA is required to assist this busy Company Secretary. Your ability to research and prepare reports, often to deadlines, will be utilised to the full. You should also enjoy extensive senior level liaison and possess a proven flair for organising. Rusty shorthand. 50 wpm typing essential. Please telephone 0171 495 2321.

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTSSecond Secretary
to Chairman
£16,500 & benefits

Major multi-national organisation requires a mature and enthusiastic individual to support the Chairman's PA. You will manage the executive dining facilities, coordinate the diary, set up meetings and travel arrangements and take responsibility for various administration projects. This is an ideal opportunity for someone who has at least two years experience and wishes to progress through exposure at such senior level. Skills: 80 shorthand, WP skills. Age: 20-28. Please call Claire Ashley on 0171-390 7000.

Crone Corkill
Recruitment ConsultantsPA to Personnel
Director
circa £20,000 & bonus

Would you like to work for a charming boss who will delegate work and fully involve you? The Director of this multi-national organisation will do just that as you coordinate his diary, meetings and international travel, and take responsibility for all of the administration. You must have at least 2 years experience in personnel and excellent organisational abilities. Skills: 90 shorthand and WP knowledge. Age: 30-45. Please call Charlotte Pelling on 0171-390-7000 for more information.

Crone Corkill
Recruitment ConsultantsWhat Price
Excellence?

£17,000 + O/T + bonus

+ gym + mortgage
+ Graphics + Purchasing
+ Lease Management + Travel
+ Delivery Services

Imagine the spending that a major international firm needs to support the business. Then imagine the organisation needed to monitor and develop the logistics to give the best value and service to the internal "Clients". We need a team-oriented secretary with windows/graphic knowledge and superb organisational skills to support managers in the Logistics Division. Loss of scope for someone who can handle pressure and take responsibility. Min 6 GCSEs, very shorthand. Age 24-30. Call Sharon Lusk on 0171 390 7000 for more details.

Crone Corkill
Recruitment ConsultantsI'd Buy It!!!
PA to CEO
£23,000

If you are looking for that all involving PA role where your intellect, first class organisational and secretarial skills will truly be put to the test, you need shop no further! The CEO of UK's largest privately owned retail chain needs an excellent PA to run his life with maximum efficiency and minimum fuss! The key is to stay 5 steps ahead, managing his ever changing schedule and assisting with every aspect of this exciting new venture. If you have excellent skills (100/60) and are in your 30s, please call Sonia Yusuf on 0171-494 4512.

Crone Corkill
Recruitment ConsultantsInvestment
Banking
£17,500 plus Banking
Benefits

We are currently looking for true team players to work in an International Banking environment. These positions require an outgoing, confident and team spirited approach as you'll be working in a pressured and busy environment. Duties include managing diaries, organising travel, typing correspondence and ad hoc projects. If you have excellent skills (60 wpm typing, W4W) at least 2 years experience as a team secretary and are willing to give 110% please call Gill Tanner on 0171-390 7000.

Crone Corkill
Recruitment ConsultantsSenior PA
11.30am-
7.30pm
£22,000 plus
benefits

Working alongside another PA assisting an Executive Director of a City Financial Institution you will be working an international day. Your duties will include extensive overseas telephone liaison, typing and administration. Your approach must be flexible and adaptable to enjoy this high profile role. Skills: 80/60 Word for Windows. Age 40+. For further information please call Claire Ashley on 0171 390 7000.

Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants

"...and then I landed this great job through Gordon Yates!"

Room At The Top
£22,000 package

One of the world's top finance companies is expanding in London. Brilliant work environment, career training and real prospects. Benefits include bonuses, paid overtime, pension, in-house gym, restaurant etc. Articulate, numerate and ambitious, you will also have minimum 2 years quality corporate experience and fast, accurate keyboard skills (80wpm+).

Junior PA
to £18,000

Do you have the confidence to take a real career step? This high-flying young service company needs someone with minimum 12-24 months experience to look after their friendly, dynamic MD plus another director. Really busy, outgoing atmosphere. Stunning offices. Shorthand skills (80wpm+) requested along with accurate typing.

Gordon Yates recruits on the basis of merit and equal opportunity. Please call 0171-494 4466 today or fax us on 0171-494 4469.

GORDON YATES
Recruitment Consultants

GORDON YATES, FINERY FOR TEMPS - NO. 3



Lady Executive
"GORDON YATES"
WILL YOU BE IMPRESSED
KIND AND LEEK ME
LOVE ANOTHER OF YOUR
GORDON YATES

GORDON YATES

FOR GOOD OLD FASHIONED
SERVICE, CALL 0171 494 4466.

SECRETARY.

A prestigious Property Investment Company in West End requires a competent, well presented young secretary to back up busy management department. Tasks include typing of all correspondence, filing, covering of switchboard and general office duties. Typing speed 50wpm and WordPerfect 6.0 for Windows an advantage. Office hours 9.30am - 5pm. Package includes 20 days holiday and a salary of £12,000pa. Will suit college leaver. Candidates: Male & Female on 0171 324 1938. No agencies.

PREMIER POSITION IN THE CITY'S
TOP DEVELOPMENT

Working in the city now is an exciting experience! Following complete refurbishment, 99 Bishopsgate is to become the City's premier office tower - boasting 320,000 sq ft of top quality space on twenty six floors. The people who will manage this building do not just need to be good! We are looking for the best!

PA/Secretary to the General Manager - c.£18,000.

The role will cover the full range of secretarial duties - for which previous experience within property of facilities management would be desirable. You will support the General Manager in every aspect of his work, and take line responsibility for two Receptionists. You will also be responsible for the Help Desk function - the first interface in dealing with the tenants' building related queries. Candidates, aged 24+ must have an excellent telephone manner, sound administrative skills and enjoy working as a member of a team. This will be a demanding role, and you must therefore be able to work effectively under pressure. A good level of general education is essential, as is familiarity with windows (preferably Microsoft Office).

Please send a detailed CV, stating current salary, for the attention of Ian Davidson at:

Hillier Parker, City Office, 1 Frederick's Place, London, EC2R 8PX.

Hillier Parker

DEVONSHIRE APPOINTMENTS
ENTER THE SECRETARIAL MARKET

With the hectic pace of technology and the increased demand from our prestigious banking and consulting clients for secretaries and PA specialists possessing graphic/ITP skills, Devonshire Appointments has grown.

To complement our existing DTP Graphics staff activity we have recruited a secretarial specialist, Michelle Mize who, alongside the team currently enjoys fantastic temporary and permanent opportunities to combine secretarial and Windows/Minidisk skills.

PA Sec to TWO MANAGERS c£18,000 + full banking benefits. An ideal opportunity for a friendly outgoing person to provide full secretarial support to two managers in Logistics and Travel, within a prestigious international bank. You will enjoy getting involved in purchasing, reservations and communicating at all levels. Educated to 'A' level standard, 8/5, 60wpm typing, Word for Windows & Excel a must.

PERSONNEL Secretary 2nd JOB c£14,000 + full banking benefits. A superb role for someone with 2 years secretarial experience. You must have the ability to prioritise, use your initiative, meet deadlines and maintain confidentiality. This is an enjoyable role for a level headed person with good Word for Windows, Excel and typing skills.

LONG TERM TEMP with German £10.00 per hour. Must be fluent in German and have excellent all round skills in order to enjoy this responsible and exciting role working as Director level in the Corporate Finance area. Word for Windows and Excel a must, training will be given on PowerPoint and Finance. 7-8 month assignment. Call Michelle Mize for further details.

OFFICE MANAGER £20,000 + bonus, health and STL. This is a high profile, highly responsible role for an all rounder. A mere 20% sec duties are combined with client liaison, ordering lightbulbs to keeping petty cash. This company is a small but rapidly growing financial concern who are based in the Sun, enjoying beautiful offices in the city. Based in reception, you will be face of the company.

RESEARCH SEC/ASSISTANT c£18,500 + full banking benefits. Your responsibilities as the support member to a team of 3 analysts will combine administration, secretarial, desk top publishing and high-profile communications. Take your Registered Rep. names and be taken seriously. Word for Windows, Excel and at least 50wpm typing.

Tel: 0171 895 9050 Fax: 0171 623 2998

Michelle Mize, Maitland Nokes, Amanda White or Victoria Sutton

Devonshire Appointments Ltd
7 Birch Lane, London EC1V 9BY

TEMP WITH
THE BEST

HODGE
RECRUITMENT
CONSULTANTS
0171 629 8863

SALES EXECUTIVE REQUIRES
A PERSONAL ASSISTANT

The Person will be energetic, literate, have excellent Word Processing skills and a good telephone manner. They will be educated to a high level and be self motivated. Attention to detail essential. Salary negotiable.

Please send CV to: Suzanne Nash, Abbey Life Assurance Co., 84, Baker Street, London, W1M 1DL. Tel: 0171-935 7740.

CHRISTMAS COUNTDOWN

Yes...once again it's twelve weeks to go - have you got the shopping lists ready and do you have enough in the bank account to purchase all those "little gifts"?

Why not get the Holiday Season off to a great start and join the City Temporary Team...

Most of our secretarial temporaries earn £9-£10 an hour and receptionists earn £7-£7.50 an hour. We also offer loyalty bonuses, bank holiday pay and free cross training. Plus...a Christmas party and gift. So start preparing now and make it a sensational season!

To find out more about our current assignments please call our City office on 0171 638 9991.

Elizabeth Hunt

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

OUTPLACEMENT PA's £18K

Friendly, professional company require PA's with excellent interpersonal skills to help with their outplacement service. You should enjoy working with senior city executives as you help them search for a new career. First class secretarial skills, a positive, sympathetic disposition and corporate presentation is required for this demanding and interesting position. Please call LISA KELLY or PORTIA LINDEMAN.

MARKETING/PROMOTIONS
SECRETARY £14K

Nationwide direct mail company require 2 secretaries. If you would like to work for a large company in a fast moving environment and have excellent secretarial (50wpm) and organisational skills then call SAMMA DALE.

Part of Graduate Appointments Plc

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BI-LINGUAL CABIN CREW - HEATHROW OR GATWICK

What language can you smile in?

FRENCH, GERMAN, ITALIAN, SPANISH, PORTUGUESE, GREEK, DUTCH, RUSSIAN, TURKISH, HEBREW, ARABIC, JAPANESE, MANDARIN, CANTONESE, THAI, KOREAN, URDU, HINDI, GUJRATI, PUNJABI, ANY SCANDINAVIAN LANGUAGE, ANY EASTERN EUROPEAN LANGUAGE, AND EXISTING HOLDERS OF SIGN LANGUAGE.

The world's favourite airline is looking for customer-focused, caring individuals able to converse confidently in any of the above languages.

You will already have a good grasp of your second language - plus all the personal qualities needed to deliver world-class customer service. We will take that linguistic ability, warm personality, unflappable nature and caring attitude - and train you to be the consummate customer service

professional with the world's favourite Cabin Crew.

If you are a European passport holder, aged 20 or above, standing 5'2" - 6'2" with weight in proportion, find out more about these positions with British Airways at Heathrow or Gatwick. Please telephone for further information and an application pack on 0990 500040. We hope to give you something very special to smile about.

BRITISH AIRWAYS

The world's favourite airline

Aldrich & Co Limited

£19,000 + Bank Benefits Director's PA (1-1). High profile role within the New Business Development division of a prestigious investment bank. It's a fast moving environment where accuracy, diplomacy and superb organisational and social skills are all essential. An excellent opportunity with lots of client contact. (Speeds: 80/60)

£18,000 + Bank Benefits. If organising is your strength here is a great opportunity. We are recruiting a Secretary to assist the M&A Team; diary management, client liaison, travel, liaising with clients, project management, client presentations. A big job with total involvement.

Call Emily Aldrich on 0171 588 8999

Aldrich & Co Limited
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

SENIOR SECRETARY/OFFICE MANAGER
AD AGENCY

A fast-growing young Ad Agency located in the West End is looking for a mature P.A. to the M.D. In addition, she will take responsibility for the general management of the office.

The successful applicant will have several years Agency experience at a senior level. She will be well-grounded, unflappable, and very computer literate.

This is an exciting career job in a fast-moving environment with a starting salary of £20,000 per annum.

Written applications only please to Stuart Leach, Managing Director, KLD, Knighton House, 56 Mortimer Street, London W1N 5DG.

TO ADVERTISE
CALL: 0171 481 9994

LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

FAX:
0171 481 9313

Corporate Image
PA/Sec
£22,000 pa
If you enjoy working with the Chairman's team and have a proven track record and skills (100000) to match, read on. You will need A levels, good English, French and impeccable presentation and you should enjoy the demands of an executive environment.

Judy Farquharson Ltd.
Senior Office Administrator/PA
For leading international commercial property consultants. Working with Divisional Manager/Board Director carrying out confidential PA work, overseeing support staff and maintaining the smooth running of high profile West End office. High level of numeracy is essential, together with discretion and talent for being one step ahead of the game. A Level+ education, and excellent secretarial skills. £20,000.

ROC
£19,000 + Benefits
Enjoy Sloane Square
Personal Assistant
Our Client, established for almost 100 years, is one of London's most respected and prestigious Estate Agents. Assist MD of residential lettings division with his truly elite, and often famous, UK and international clients. Involvement with marketing, media coverage and property visits. Typing 50 wpm.

Central London Estate Agents
requires an outstanding administrator, to co-ordinate and lead a new department within their Letting and Property Management team. This is an opportunity for an individual with flair, energy, and enthusiasm to build their own department in business with a business.

SEC/RECEPTIONIST required for a general manager opening an office in St John's Wood for one of the most progressive estate agents in Central London. Must be versatile as a young fast moving office, personable, well spoken with a sense of humour. Good computer and admin skills essential. Clean driving license.

the HOBSTONES
column
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

PA to Chairman
£18,000-£20,000
Excellent opportunity with well known Design Consultancy to work as Office Manager and PA to the Chairman. Telephone liaison with VIP's is a matter of course as well as organising the day to day running of the office. An ability to muck in and help out is greatly appreciated and diplomacy and a sense of humour are vital. Also needed is at least three years experience at director level and a solid CV. Aged 26-35 please call Lissanne on 0171 377 9919.

HOBSTONES
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

PA to Director
£19,000 + BBens
This fast moving international banking environment needs a proactive, energetic PA for a hard working director and 2 assistants. An interest in current affairs will be invaluable as you will represent your department at all times. Hours 8am-6pm. Word for Windows, Excel, 60wpm. Previous large international company experience. Age 25-35. Call Suzanne Baines 0171 377 9919.

HOBSTONES
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Spoilt for Choice!
Temps to
£9.50/hour
We aim to offer our temps a wide choice of assignments in companies ranging from investment banks to the arts. So whether you are looking for long-term, short-term or even part-time work we would like to help:

HOBSTONES
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

PA in Publishing
£20,000
One of the world's largest, international publishing and information businesses requires a senior PA to work for their dynamic and highly regarded Finance Director. The ideal candidate will be confident and mature with excellent interpersonal and organisational skills. It will be essential to liaise effectively at senior level and to use your initiative to make responsible decisions in the FD's absence. This is a true PA role with peace and tranquility, requiring a professional and confidential attitude and of course a good sense of humour! 60/60 and a Windows package. Age 27 +++. Please call Jane Shepherd on 0171 437 6832 or fax your CV on 0171 494 0687.

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HOBSTONES
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

BANKING
SPRINGBOARD...
to £25,000 pkg
High Salary? Stable company? Sociable people? INTERESTED? If so, a famous international Investment Bank is looking for excellent secretaries in the following areas:

KNIGHTSBRIDGE
SECRETARIES

LIFE IN THE
FAST LANE?
to £25,000
The Vice President of this expanding company is looking for an outstanding PA/Secretary with a genuine desire for a demanding but rewarding role. You will attend and take minutes at all major meetings (travelling to Europe once a month) and will be exceptionally involved with the day to day running of the European offices. You should be articulate, well presented, and used to working at director level. Age: 24-35. Skills: 90/60. Languages useful.

KNIGHTSBRIDGE
SECRETARIES

THE DORCHESTER
PA To Director & General Manager
A Key Role with Responsibility

Across the length and breadth of the world, The Dorchester is synonymous with the very best that London has to offer. Everything here is five star, from our sumptuous surroundings and service, to a guest list that is the envy of the industry. Small wonder then that a role assisting our General Manager carries with it all the responsibility you could ever need as an experienced up PA. Apart from providing first class all round secretarial support, you will be completely involved in organising the GM's day to day activities. This will include fielding calls, maintaining his appointment diary, coordinating VIP visits, making executive minutes, and providing vital help, support and answer right hand.

Maine - Tucker
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BRISTOL/M4 CORRIDOR
PERSONAL ASSISTANT
£16-18,000 + PENS + MED +
LIFE ASSURANCE + SUB
RESTAURANT + FREE
PARKING + DISCOUNTS

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UXBRIDGE
PARTNER IN CRIME
£15,000

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PA to Chairman
£18,000-£20,000
Excellent opportunity with well known Design Consultancy to work as Office Manager and PA to the Chairman. Telephone liaison with VIP's is a matter of course as well as organising the day to day running of the office. An ability to muck in and help out is greatly appreciated and diplomacy and a sense of humour are vital. Also needed is at least three years experience at director level and a solid CV. Aged 26-35 please call Lissanne on 0171 377 9919.

HOBSTONES
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PA to Director
£19,000 + BBens
This fast moving international banking environment needs a proactive, energetic PA for a hard working director and 2 assistants. An interest in current affairs will be invaluable as you will represent your department at all times. Hours 8am-6pm. Word for Windows, Excel, 60wpm. Previous large international company experience. Age 25-35. Call Suzanne Baines 0171 377 9919.

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Recruitment Consultants

TERM TIME ONLY
PA TO HEADMASTER
£15,000 (£19,000 PRO RATA) +
PARKING

Maine - Tucker
Recruitment Consultants

LEGAL SIX MONTH
TEMP JOB
£621,000 (pro rata) + 9.30 START
+ HOLIDAY

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WARWICKSHIRE
SUPER SECRETARY
£14,000 + GENEROUS BONUS

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Recruitment Consultants

PA/Assistant
Office Manager
£18,000 + Benefits

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Recruitment Consultants

SECRETARY/PA
£20,000 neg.

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Recruitment Consultants

Manager - Secretariat
Professional Practice - Admin/Office Management
Cardiff
Neg. £, excellent

The Client: A major professional practice, a market leader in its field, setting world class standards, enjoying continued international growth. The Role: Leads the administrative and support systems, controlling and co-ordinating secretarial, general office and I.T. disciplines to give a high quality, time-critical service to the blue chip client base. Key tasks include planning of throughput and resources, improvement of service provision and project/development work in the general admin and I.T. functions.

OPUS
RESOURCES

Dun & Bradstreet Software
Four Executive PA's Required
£17,000-£21,000 + Excellent Benefits
Our client, Dun & Bradstreet Software, a subsidiary of the Dun & Bradstreet Corporation, is a highly successful & pro-active company which develops, markets & supports a range of business software products & services. These include market leading decision support tools for financial, HR, manufacturing & distribution applications. As they are relocating to the UK head office premises at High Wycombe, vacancies exist for 1 Senior Secretary/PA for the MD plus 3 Executive PA's for Sales and Customer Services. Supporting Directors at executive level, you'll need exceptional experience in event organisation & diary management coupled with superior communication ability, computer literacy and first-rate secretarial skills (short-hand preferred in some cases but not essential). If you're a career secretary seeking a challenging role in a blue-chip company which is enterprising & progressive, these positions will provide the stimulus you're looking for, combined with a close-knit, friendly & results-oriented team atmosphere.

Regus
OPPORTUNITIES
THROUGHOUT
EUROPE 1995-1996

Regus is the world's largest Business Centre Group with over 100 centres worldwide offering fully serviced office accommodation to 40 major cities in Europe. We have opportunities immediately and throughout 1995/1996, including the UK, for:

CENTRE MANAGERS
Managing one of our prestigious offices and a support team of up to six people. Responsible for the sales, service and profitability of the operation, with a high degree of autonomy. Good all round secretarial skills also preferred.

PROJECT MANAGERS
With all the same skills of the Centre Manager, their positions will be to oversee the opening of our new centres from their initial concept until fully operational. Willingness to travel essential.

Excellent career development opportunities and a very competitive compensation package exist for the right candidates. All positions require one or preferably two other languages. (In the UK a second language is not necessary for the position of Centre Manager).

For more information on either of the above positions, or if you are interested to find out how you could fit into our dynamic organisation in another capacity contact:

Maine - Tucker
Recruitment Consultants

WHAT A START!
UP TO £13,000

Do you want to work in fantastic offices, with great people in a fast company (media/marketing)? This busy team need a young secretary with a little secretarial experience, 30wpm, to join their central London office. You will be with other like minded people in a really involved position (doing anything from organising lunches to organising media packs, negotiating etc). If you have Windows exp (spreadsheet and word) and you're young and enthusiastic, we would love to hear from you.

CHAIRMAN'S PA
for Economic Consultancy

First Class PA required to support the Chairman of this busy consultancy. The ideal candidate will be a self starter who is flexible and can work under pressure to meet tight deadlines. Responsibilities include diary management, document preparation and client liaison. Applicants should have excellent computer skills. Proficiency in Microsoft Word 6.0 essential. Competitive salary offered. Please send CV to Linda Styles, London Economics, 68 Chiltern Street, London W1M 1PR. No agencies.

CUSTOMER SERVICES
OFFICER

We are an Australian Pte in International Telecommunications recently started in London and need an enthusiastic, hard working person to look after our customers from our Central London offices in Battersea. Applicants must be able to handle clients and deal with problems and queries covering all aspects of the business. Attention to detail is vital. An exciting opportunity for the right person. Typing or computer experience, and a good sense of humour an advantage. Salary £14-£16,000 per annum. Fax or post CV to:

OSBORNE & LITTLE PLC
SECRETARY/PA TO FINANCE
DIRECTOR

Secretary/PA is required to work for Finance Director and as a support to the accounts department in this prestigious fabric/wallcoverings company. Varied duties including payroll and personnel therefore candidate must be quite flexible. Apple Mac experience essential as well as ability to work unsupervised. Accurate typing with good speeds.

HOBSTONES
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Too good to be true!

Leading International company based in Covent Garden have several vacancies to join their highly successful teams. This company has a very special philosophy where everybody is treated equally and where personalities and having fun really count. If you have a professional, energetic and cheerful nature with a typing speed of 45wpm, ideal age 21-28 years and want a guaranteed social life and salary to £16,000 + bonus call Emma on 0171 437 6032.

HOBSTONES
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Judy Farquharson Ltd.

Chairman of the art magazine needs experienced mature secretary with excellent grammar and good command of the English language. Typing a definite 70+ on W4W. Relocating to SW London. £18-20,000.

JFL
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Design & Deliver in Europe

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Classic partnership has abrupt conclusion

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

THE telephone rang at 1pm yesterday in the Kildangan Stud suite, overlooking the Goffs Salesring in Co. Kildare. The conversation which ensued between Sheikh Mohammed, calling from Dubai, and Anthony Stroud, his racing manager, was ruthlessly to the point — and would send tremors throughout racing.

Inside the hour, Stroud had carried out his orders by tracking down Henry Cecil and informing the ten times champion trainer that the sheikh was withdrawing his 40-plus horses from Warren Place in Newmarket. After a classic winning relationship stretching back more than a

dozen years, Cecil had been dismissed.

The official version of events prompting the parting of the ways hinges around Mark Of Esteem, the outstanding two-year-old colt in Cecil's yard, whom Sheikh Mohammed decided three weeks ago would join his all-conquering Godolphin operation and winter in Dubai.

The horse, second favourite for the Derby in some antipost lists, left for Dubai 24 hours before he was due to run in the Royal Lodge Stakes at Ascot on September 23.

A statement, prepared hastily by Stroud yesterday, explained: "Mark Of Esteem has arrived safely in Dubai. On

displaying stiffness to his gait."

Despite knowing about the injury, the statement continued, Henry Cecil had declared publicly his disappointment at not being allowed to run Mark Of Esteem in the Royal Lodge Stakes.

Ironically, Sheikh Mohammed, first heard about the injury to Mark Of Esteem less than 24 hours after he called a press conference at Ascot where he made a thinly-veiled attack on Cecil's young wife, Natalie, for the way she interfered with the training of horses at the yard. "Henry Cecil is a great trainer but when he allows people who hardly know anything about

thoroughbred horses to interfere, that is bad," he said.

Sheikh Mohammed "felt misled" by Cecil when the injury came to light but there was no sign he would take such drastic action in the days that followed. Perhaps, he wanted time to think. Or, more likely, he did not wish to do anything to distract from

the successful preparation of Laumiatra for the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe at Longchamp on Sunday. Either way, neither Stroud nor anyone else had any inkling of what was in store before yesterday.

The sheikh stressed yesterday that his decision to dismiss Cecil had nothing to do

with the dispute involving Natalie. Be that as it may, any relationship between the pair and trainer cannot prosper in the kind of strained atmosphere which had prompted recent headlines talking of "strife" and "war".

While Cecil attempted at Ascot to patch up the differences, in public at least, with

British, and how they would continue to race here while they were welcome. Whatever the rights and wrongs of yesterday's decision, the demonstration of sheer ruthlessness shows that Sheikh Mohammed, at least, has far greater ambitions now. And we bet anyone who dares to stand in his way.

And the trainer believes there is better still to come from his talented filly. "I think Hever Golf Rose will be improving," he said. "She did very well physically from three to four and I think she will do the same from four to five."

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Happier times as Sheikh Mohammed and Cecil give Diminuendo a congratulatory pat after her triumph in the 1988 Oaks at Epsom

Abbaye winner earns trip to US

JOE NAUGHTON yesterday announced that his impressive Prix de l'Abbaye winner, Hever Golf Rose, will attempt to land her ninth win of the year in the Breeders' Cup Sprint at Belmont Park on October 28.

"She is in great shape and she came out of the race very well. We are just getting things organised for the trip to America," the Epsom trainer said. "I can't see any reason why she shouldn't run and she deserves her chance."

The four-year-old's 2½-length defeat of Cherokee Rose at Longchamp took her prize-money earnings

RICHARD EVANS

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Next best: Porphyrios (4.45 Market Rasen)

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Good luck to those possessing the most precious commodity in sport



ANDREW LONGMORE
Midweek View

The fourth morning of the Oval Test match, the West Indies bats for not many wickets. Richie Richardson, for once, is in full flow and Dominic Cork on for his second over of the morning. What happens next, when Cork bowls a gentle short ball outside the West Indies captain's off stump? In multi-choice answers to that question, there would be few marks for ticking (a) retrieve ball from boundary fence. Only the truly optimistic or the truly blessed would venture (b) watch gully take a brilliant left-handed catch and celebrate wildly as if this was part of a master-plan.

Full marks for those answering (b). Richardson, eyes wide with delight, launched into his trademark shot only to see Graeme Hick take the catch. Richardson c Hick b Cork 93. A beautiful away-swinging forcing edge? A canny piece of foreplay inducing a cramped cut? A wicked short ball fended off the throat? The bare facts of the scorebook allow the imagination full rein.

Really, it should reveal the truth. Bad ball, good shot, lucky boy. If there was one true comparison with Ian Botham — as opposed to the wishful thinking of "the next Botham" — that wicket bore it out. Cork, like Botham, is a lucky bowler, inexplicably capable of furling good batsmen into schoolboy blunders.

It is an impossible question to answer, but has anyone earned more wickets with bad balls than Botham? I think not. And it is not just the perfectly decent play of bowling two overs of good balls and then slipping in a bad one on purpose to make the batsman think. These are balls the bowler would want to retract if he had the chance, cringingly awful balls that would be laughed out of sight on the village green. But lucky bowlers take good wickets with them.

Luck is the most precious commodity in sport. It is also the most dangerous, because sportsmen cannot control it. The shibboleth is that luck even itself out in the end. Snooker players have to think that way because they would go demented sitting there for hour after hour, waiting for the balls to run their way. Golfers, too, with time to reflect between shots, have to adopt the philosophical approach or risk eternal damnation.

Gary Player's conviction that there

was no such thing as luck was encapsulated in the phrase: "The more I practise, the luckier I get." But try telling that to a relegation-threatened football manager.

In the United States, the notion of luck is viewed differently. The golf courses there are designed, like the tennis courts, to bring every ounce of luck out of the game. No bad bounces on those wide-open, picture-postcard fairways; what you hit is what you get. That is one reason why some Americans — not the majority, thankfully — cannot cope with a course like St Andrews, where the rules of cause and effect are not so clear-cut. Good shots can end in bad places and vice versa. The trick is to forget about it and wait for the next lucky bounce.

Ivan Lendl never found the knack and so could not master fully the art of grass-court tennis. He loved hard courts, where the bounce was even, and his well-ordered mind was short-circuited by the unprogrammable. Net-cords he would glower at, but

accept. Grass, with its patchy bounce and varied pace, annoyed the hell out of him. So he never won Wimbledon.

Luck is attributed strange and powerful properties in some sports, given form and reason way beyond the truth. Football managers will swear blind that bad luck follows the down-and-outs, badgers the life out of a team short of confidence and therefore induces further neuroses. The dodgy penalty, the shot against the bar, the incompetent referee: the breaks never go the way of those who need them most. "Why pick on me when they have luck to spare?" A convenient excuse, of course. When your team is winning, nobody remembers the bad luck, so it is not there. Only in defeat does bad luck assume heroic proportions.

Sometimes, luck is not luck at all. Botham's luck became self-propelling in the end, a product of the man and therefore rational. Botham scrambled minds and made batsmen do daft things through force of character and reputation. Cork, glory be, seems to have the same powers. Do not let anyone tell him that luck even itself out in the end. It is poppycock. On Sunday, 67 seconds into his return, Cantona is allowed time and space to drive in a low cross. It is aimed for Cole, but reaches Butt, who scores. Some people are just born lucky.



Cantona: blessed by good fortune

Earthquake fails to halt Towers cup tie

By Nicholas Harling

THE aftermath of the earthquake in western Turkey that killed at least 52 people on Sunday is not expected to prevent London Towers from playing the second leg of their Korac Cup second-round tie against Tofas Spor Kulubu tonight.

Kulubu's home is at Bursa, about 300 miles from the epicentre of the earthquake in Duzce. "We checked with the Turkish consulate and Turkish airline and there was no problem," Barry Marshall, the club's owner, said.

With no aftershocks expected to reach Bursa, the main worry for Kevin Cadie, the Towers coach, revolves around his team's capacity for holding onto their nine-point lead and not succumbing to the intimidation of either their hosts or the crowd. "You can be certain that the crowd will be boisterous," he said.

No visiting player promises to respond more than Danny Lewis. Towers' American guard, who is no stranger to hostile crowds after playing in the Mexican league two years ago. "The bigger and noisier they are, the better I play," he said.

Their two England internationals, Steve Bucknall and Joel Moore, both returned from injury on Sunday when they helped the club go top of the Budweiser League with a 91-77 victory over the Leopards.

Sheffield Sharks have less realistic hopes of progress when they complete their European championship tie against Real Madrid in Spain tomorrow. The Sharks resume ten points down against the European champions.

Northern provide Cannons' fodder

By Colin McQuillan

THE Super Squash League (SSL) season began this week with Cannons Club, of London, the champions, securing a 2-1 victory over Jim Hall Sports Northern, the Manchester club, and Ogmore Valley Dragons beating Ellis Stockbrokers Lingfield by the same margin.

Although the SSL boasts the more impressive international players among its squads is the reorganised SRA (Squash Rackets Association) National League, that forms the apex of England's 50,000-player league structure, again looks set to steal spectators' interest for the coming season.

Under the increasingly player-orientated regime established within the SRA under the presidency of the former world No 1 and British Open champion, Jonah Barrington, each team in the first division of the National League must, for the first time, include a woman and allow women to compete at any other level in the playing order.

National League competition begins in the North on Tuesday, October 17, and in the South on Thursday, October 19, in an intense programme leading up to inter-zone play-offs next March.

The British women's champion, Fiona Geaves, has signed for Sigma Strings, the Swansea side that also includes Chris Robertson, the Australian former world No 2, who is now national coach to Wales, while Suzanne Horner, the world No 4, will play for Reebok Nottingham. Cassandra Jackman has signed for Keyline Barnham Broom, from Norfolk.

Over the next 6 months you'll probably need the new Home strip, the Away strip, the new Away strip, the T-shirt and the new armchair.



(But one thing's for sure, if you take out a NatWest Access or Visa card we'll discount our interest rate until 30th June 1996.)

We're into the new season and already we're starting to see whether players are worth their transfer fees. Or if in reality they're worth the price of a small tub of ice-cream. But even if your team isn't performing too well, don't worry.

We're offering a discount of 0.2% per month on the NatWest Access and NatWest Visa interest rate until 30th June 1996. Which means for example, that our current interest rate would be reduced from 1.67% to 1.47% per month — which means an APR of 22.0%* for purchases and 22.9%* for cash advances.

And as these can be used at over 12 million outlets worldwide, from Aberdeen to Real Zaragoza, travelling to see your team is not going to be a problem.

Call 0800 200 400

To find out more give us a call on 0800 200 400 or fill in the coupon and we'll send you a leaflet and application form. But don't delay, because you must apply by 31st December 1995. And it would be a shame to miss such a great result.

NatWest
More than just a bank



FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

* denotes 3rd tier

Coca-Cola Cup

Second round, second leg

Sheff Wed (0) v Sheff Wed (2) (7.45)

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Blackburn bargain for Bohinen

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